NORTHERN ISLANDER

$5.00

OCTOBER 2025

IRISH CURRACH CLUB MAKES A SPLASH WITH CUSTOM BOATS

The Beaver Island Currach Club spent several months handcrafting two currachs in preparation for the Emerald Isle Irish Féile. On Thursday, September 4, the team and their boats took to the water with the support of the Milwaukee Currach Club who inspired all of this hard work!

Learn more about the Beaver Island Irish Currach Club's boat building process on page 4.

BEAVER ISLAND SHUFFLEBOARD SISTERS MADE THEIR WAY TO BOIS BLANC

For the third year in a row, the ladies' Beaver Island shuffleboard team competed against the Bois Blanc team. This year, the Islanders made their way over to Bois Blanc for the competition.

Learn more about the shuffleboard competition on page 14.

NEW HALL OF FAMERS ANNOUNCED DURING EMERALD ISLE IRISH FÉILE

Four new Islanders were inducted into the Irish American Hall of Fame for 2025.

To see who was recognized, learn more on page 26.

IN MEMORY OF BELOVED ISLANDER AND SCHOOLTEACHER

On September 3, Beaver Island said goodbye to an incredible community member and inspiring schoolteacher.

Take time to read the obituary of Bryan Foli on page 33.

A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT AT THE PRINT SHOP MUSEUM

The Beaver Island Historical Society and community members extend a huge thank you to Lu O'Connor for her beautiful floral display outside of the Print Shop Museum. Her hard work does not go unnoticed!

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Established 1957
Keeping Island History Alive

NORTHERN ISLANDER

is proudly owned and published by the
Beaver Island Historical Society

Board President Tracy Paquin
Executive Director Lori Taylor-Blitz
Executive Editor George Broder
Editor Elsie Burton
Editor's Assistant Brittney Rittof
Circulation Manager Lu O'Connor

Phone: 231-448-2254 **Email: editor@beaverislandhistory.org** **Mail: PO Box 295, Beaver Island, MI 49782**

Dear Northern Islander Readers,

Before all of you seasonal residents head south for the winter, please remember to update your mailing address for your subscription. A quick call to the Beaver Island Historical Society at 231-448-2254 ensures your Northern Islander will follow you home without interruption.

Looking ahead, the holidays are just around the corner—Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah and so many more will be here before we know it. This season, consider giving the gift of Beaver Island to the people you love. A subscription to the Northern Islander is more than just a newspaper—it's a lifeline to home, a connection to community, and a tradition that has been alive for 175 years.

First published in 1850, the Northern Islander has carried stories of island life across generations. Since the Beaver Island Historical Society took ownership in 2023, our paper has grown from 24 pages to as many as 40 in our busiest months. This growth reflects not only the energy of our island but also the commitment to preserving and sharing its stories.

When you give a holiday subscription, you're doing more than handing someone a newspaper, you're supporting the future of local journalism. And this year, we're adding a special bonus: holiday gift subscriptions come with the option to share a heartfelt holiday message on our website, *northernislander.news*.

Our new online platform brings even more benefits, including timely updates, breaking news, and a weekly Sunday article with something fresh to read every weekend.

And subscriptions are flexible: print only, online only, or a combination of both. With these options, you're able to find the perfect media for you!

This holiday season, help us carry Beaver Island's stories forward. Order a gift subscription today by calling the Beaver Island Historical Society at 231-448-2254.

With gratitude for your ongoing support,
Elsie Burton
Editor of the Northern Islander

HALLOWEEN
Annual Subscription Rates
Print Only (In-State) $50.00
Print Only (Out of State) $65.00
Digital Only $48.00
Print & Digital (In State) $62.00
Print & Digital (Out of State) $77.00
Bonus!
As a thank you for giving the gift of Northern Islander News this holiday season, every gifted subscription includes an optional 'happy holidays' feature on the Northern Islander website!
NORTHERN ISLANDER
To set up a gift subscription, visit or call the Beaver Island Historical Society at (231) 448-2254

BEAVER ISLAND ANNUAL TRICK-OR-TREAT

Friday, October 31, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Get in your costumes and prepare for a night of trick-or-treating!

GREGG FELLOWSHP CENTER TRUNK OR TREAT

Friday, October 31 at the Gregg Fellowship Center.

BEAVER ISLAND DISTRICT LIBRARY HALLOWEEN PARTY

November 1 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the library.

There will be snacks and drinks. Costumes are encouraged. Enjoy games, crafts, and prizes for all ages.

PRINT SHOP PERSPECTIVE

By Lori Taylor-Blitz

Since 1957, The Beaver Island Historical Society has been working to keep Beaver Island History Alive! We advance this goal through a mission of preserving and sharing the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS: HONORING LU O'CONNOR AND THE PRINT SHOP MUSEUM'S SUMMER GARDEN

A TRIBUTE TO KINDNESS, CARE, AND THE BLOSSOMS OF SUMMER 2025

GRATITUDE IN FULL BLOOM

This summer, the Print Shop Museum has been graced by more than just history—the grounds have come alive with a burst of color and fragrance that lifts the spirits of everyone who visits. At the heart of this transformation is Lu O'Connor, whose unwavering devotion and gentle touch have turned the flower garden into a living work of art. With every seed planted and every bloom tended, Lu has shared not only beauty but also hope and joy with our community.

THE GARDEN'S GENTLE TOUCH

To stand in awe of the garden is to experience a celebration of life and care. The rich tapestry of blossoms and greenery is the result of countless hours of nurturing, each flower a testament to Lu's thoughtful attention and passion. Visitors have found beauty and inspiration among the petals, pausing to marvel at the artistry and love woven into every corner. The garden, more than a feast for the eyes, has become a highlight for those who gather, rest, and connect on the museum porch, letting the simple wonders of nature brighten their days.

All through the summer of 2025, Lu could be seen in the garden—watering, deadheading the flowers with a smile on her face, and tending to each plant with patience and care. Her dedication went far beyond the duties of a gardener; it was a heartfelt gift to everyone who visited the museum. Lu's generosity of spirit is evident in every blossom and green leaf, and her kindness has sown seeds of happiness that will last long after the summer sun fades.

A THANK YOU FROM THE HEART

On behalf of the board of the Beaver Island Historical Society, our volunteers, visitors, and all who have passed by, we offer our deepest and most heartfelt thanks to Lu O'Connor. The garden is a living testament to what can happen when someone pours both skill and soul into their work. Through Lu's devotion, the museum has become not just a place of history, but a sanctuary of beauty and warmth. The garden invites us all to pause, breathe, and remember that generosity and care can transform the world around us.

Thank you, Lu.

Beaver Island Historical Society Board of Directors:

President: Tracy Paquin
Vice President: Angel LeFevre-Welke
Secretary: Kim Bousquet
Treasurer: Jacqueline LaFreniere
Executive Director: Lori Taylor-Blitz

Trustee: George Broder
Trustee: Joe Callian
Trustee: Craig Turnbull
Trustee: Sue Screven
Trustee: Dave Case

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Established 1957
Keeping Island History Alive

History of LTBB and GTB Tribes Presentation

October 13, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Honoring Indigenous Peoples' Day, we bring to you a presentation on the history of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) and Grand Traverse Bay Bands of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB).

Indigenous Peoples' Day is a holiday in the United States that celebrates and honors Indigenous American peoples and commemorates their histories and cultures.

Print Shop Museum
26275 Main Street
Beaver Island, MI 49782
Phone: (231) 448-2254

IRISH CURRACH CLUB OF BEAVER ISLAND LAUNCHES TWO ROWING BOATS

CLUB MEMBERS CREATE THEIR OWN DESTINY BY BUILDING CURRACHS ON BEAVER ISLAND

By Kathleen "Kitty" McNamara

CURRACH CLUB BACKGROUND

Membership in, and interest and enthusiasm for the Irish Currach Club of Beaver Island continues to grow. There is a core group of club members, some of which have been around from the club's humble beginnings in 2019 when the Irish Currach Club of Milwaukee brought two currachs and ten members to the inaugural Emerald Irish Féile. The currachs were a huge success at the Féile generating so much local enthusiasm that the Irish Currach Club of Milwaukee left a boat here to encourage the development of a currach club on Beaver Island. And so, it started. The club continued to use the Milwaukee currach for several years as club members continued to build skills and participate in races against Milwaukee at the Féile each September.

In 2024, the Milwaukee club took their loaned boat back, leaving the Beaver Island Club at a crossroads; disbanding the club or figure out a way to build or buy its own boat(s). The group went all in and held an informational meeting to gauge community interest in the club and decide how to move forward. The response was tremendous, and a plan was hatched to build, not one, but two boats so that practices would be more fun and races could be held on Beaver Island all summer. Very generous donors, Lisa Gillespie and Don & Amy Langford, stepped up to provide the capital to build the boats under the direction of local boat builder and club member Dan Burton. Long-time club member Sharon Henry-Warren stepped up with a generous donation as well.

Operating with two currachs will allow the club to fully embrace its goals of connecting the island to the nautical heritage of Ireland, to introduce the Beaver Island community to currach racing in North America and hence other Irish American communities, provide healthy leisure activities for its members and allow the greater Beaver Island community the pleasure of seeing these Irish rowing boats grace our harbor.

CURRACH CLUB BOAT BUILDING PROCESS

One of the first obstacles to overcome was where to build these boats… each boat is approximately 25' long and 4' wide and we were building two! St. James Township board graciously allowed the club to use the Marina North pole barn for what was expected to be a 2-month process. It was much longer than that as summer schedules interrupted the workflow while amateur woodworkers cut, planed and sanded a seemingly unlimited supply of poplar, turning it into slats for the boat's hull. Many thanks to the township and their maintenance supervisor, Joel Meintsma, for putting up with us all summer.

Beaver Island boat builder Dan Burton was the lead on building two currachs with the help of nearly a dozen novice woodworking club members and two experienced woodworkers, John Campbell and Brian Williams.

The design of the boats is based upon a trip taken by Dan Burton and club president Kitty McNamara to Pittsburgh to meet elderly Irish born currach builder Joe Mulkerrin whose son-in-law, Patrick Clark, is the leader of the Pittsburgh Irish Rowing Club. Dan and Joe hit it off and plans were shared, material lists discussed, and pictures and videos were taken to guide the building process. Throughout the process, Dan and Kitty kept in regular contact with Patrick Clark to make sure each new step followed their process and to ask clarifying questions when challenges arose.

The boat building process drew on the expertise of many Beaver Islanders. First, Dan Burton worked with local Rich Gillespie to source the oak and poplar needed for the boats' structures. As the structures took shape, BICS graduate Ryan Oliver (Canvas Northwest, Charlevoix) came to the rescue, flying to the island to assess the job, make a pattern and take the already procured canvas (from a firm in Pittsburgh) back to his shop. Ryan returned three days later to place the canvas on the boat frames, and they fit like a glove! Once the canvas was on, all club members and anyone else we could rope in, began sponge-painting the 10 layers of black Rustoleum (mostly procured from Powers Do It Best Hardware) to the outside of the hull, giving the currachs their traditional look.

Another BICS grad, Daniel Runberg, was recruited to spray paint the inside of the boats as we reached crunch time—we had less than a week until the planned launch of the boats in time for the Emerald Isle Irish Féile! Dan did an amazing job; pictures of his work were shown to the Pittsburg and Milwaukee currach club leaders, and they were blown away at the quality of the work and the strategy Dan Burton devised of setting the boats on their sides on sawhorses for painting—a new currach building technique born of Beaver Island ingenuity. One boat is painted green inside and the other orange and each is named by the sponsors: The Robert Jewell, named by Lisa Vance Gillespie for her late husband Robert Gillespie and The Amy Langford, named by Don Langford as a surprise for his wife Amy.

Even after the painting, and certainly during the days of putting on coat after coat of black paint, project manager Dan Burton burned the midnight oil to get the boats ready for the festival. He spent countless hours in his own shop preparing the more intricate and precise pieces needed to finish the boats for launching. And launch we did on Thursday, September 4, a rainy and dismal day (an Irish day?) as Lisa Gillespie and Don Langford christened the boats with champagne amidst a small crowd of club members and family and friends. To bring the story full circle, the Milwaukee Currach Club, whose members brought the first currachs to Beaver Island in 2019, returned to enjoy the launch of our new boats and have even hinted at having Dan Burton (the newest American currach builder) build a new boat for their club!

While boat building took us off the water for a bit this season, the incredible craftsmanship and countless hours poured into these currachs mean we'll enjoy them for years to come. A huge thanks to everyone who made this possible—we can't wait to see them in action on the harbor!

Photo credit: Alchemy Creative Mt. Pleasant

Club members who worked on the boats were: Amanda Bedell, Brian Williams, Daniel Burton, Danny Doig, Francis Bedell, John Campbell, Kathleen McNamara, Leslee Pearson, Lisa Franz, Lisa Gillespie, Linda Wearn, Lois Campell, Mark Franz, Matthew Walsh, Megan Tuohy, Shannon McDonough, Susan Williams.

Tried and True Family Favorite Recipes

Lisa Gillespie's Pumpkin Soup

Submitted by Rach Becker

Each month, we will feature recipes that are sure to have you coming back for seconds. These are the recipes that we grew up with and still make today.

Lisa (Vance) Gillespie started coming to Beaver Island during the summers with her family when she was thirteen. Her parents, Vern and Sharon, bought a home on Donegal Bay after seeing an advertisement in the Grand Rapids newspaper for a home for sale.

Lisa and her son Cody moved to Beaver Island permanently in 1991 when she married Robert Gillespie. She worked at the school as a librarian for ten years. Over the years, she has worked at the Beaver Island ferry office and has owned and operated Shipwreck Shirts for 35 years.

She is a seeker of adventures. She loves to watch the sunsets and travel any chance she can get.

The blustery months will be here soon. For those of us who like to be in our fleece sweatshirts, this means it's "soup weather."

Blasta! (Irish for delicious)

Ingredients:

13-ounce can of pumpkin
1 cup whipping cream
3 cups chicken broth
1 teaspoon cumin
1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon chili powder
1/4 teaspoon ground coriander

Put all ingredients in a saucepan and simmer until warm and bubbling.

NEWS FROM THE BEAVER ISLAND WILDLIFE CLUB

UPCOMING EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE WILDLIFE CLUB

- November 16 at the Shamrock Restaurant will be the Annual Harold Lounsberry Memorial Hunter's Dinner and the conclusion of the Rifle Raffle. Tickets ($10 each or 11/$100) are on sale through board members and at the dinner. The rifle is a Ruger .308 with a scope. There will also be other prizes, including a Kelly Day Charter ½-day fish trip for four, a range finder and binocular combo, a combo rod and reel, and more! Again, this year, we will have a youth raffle—in person only. Tickets will be sold at the door for a variety of prizes. Must be present to win.

- Coyote Bounty — A $20 bounty will be paid for coyotes shot between October 1, 2025, and April 1, 2026. Contact Levi Connor for details.

- Roy Elsworth Memorial Big Buck Contest will be held during Firearm and Muzzleloading seasons. Entrance fee ($20) and registration will occur at Power's Hardware before the close of business on November 14. Deer must be scored on-island. This year we will be scoring a little differently—no deductions. More board members will be trained to make it easier to connect for scoring. The winner will get half of the take from the registrations.

- Doe Contest — Instead of the biggest doe, all entrants will be placed in a drawing for a prize (TBD). So, all hunters who take does will have an equal chance of winning. Does taken during Firearm and Muzzleloading seasons will be included. Contact Levi Connor to enter the drawing.

Additionally, the Beaver Island Deer Management Unit (DMU) does not participate in early or late antlerless seasons at this time. When taking does, please be aware of any fawns with her. Taking a doe with a fawn decreases the fawn's survival chance. Let them go, and let them grow!

BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY IN ACTION

COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES – SEPTEMBER 2025
BROADBAND PROJECTS SERVING BEAVER ISLAND

Submitted By Bobbi Welke

FIBER TO THE ISLAND:

Peninsula Fiber Network (PFN), an internet service provider (www.pfnllc.net) based in Marquette, Michigan, received a $63 million federal National Telecommunication and Information Administration middle-mile grant to add two high-speed broadband networks between Michigan's upper and lower peninsulas, along with a smaller project to connect Flint to Port Huron. PFN's networks add resilience and redundancy to the state's broadband system, including enhancing 911 throughout the state.

Both peninsula-connecting networks involve placing submarine fiber below Lake Michigan. One system connects Chicago to Benton Harbor, which has an existing terrestrial system in Wisconsin and Illinois. The other system connects Gulliver in the Upper Peninsula to Charlevoix, with a terrestrial buried portion on Beaver Island. The fiber comes ashore at the north onto the St. James Township Campground and proceeds to the Beaver Island Hub, located at the nearby St. James Township's communication tower. The network expands into Peaine Township to depart from the east at the Central Michigan University (CMU) Campground.

The federal planning and permitting phase is underway. The horizontal directional drilling work, which connects the terrestrial network to the submarine systems, is scheduled for 2026. The underwater work is scheduled for 2027. The project is expected to be completed and operational by June 30, 2028. PFN's network will be open-sourced at the Beaver Island Hub, for other telecoms to access.

FIBER TO BEAVER ISLAND'S COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS:

Merit Engineering (Merit), a network engineering firm (www.merit.edu) based in Ann Arbor, is charged with connecting broadband networks to the state's universities and colleges, K–12 schools, and libraries. The Beaver Island Community School has a project underway with Merit to bury conduit/fiber to the school, library, health center, and three CMU facilities (biological station, boathouse, and communications tower). These facilities are part of the community's anchor institutions.

This fiber network will be connected to a new enhanced microwave located at the Beaver Island Hub. The island microwave will connect to microwave on a tower owned by Northern Michigan University in the UP. This UP tower is located directly north of Beaver Island near Lake Michigan at Engadine. This system should be operational in September/October 2025.

The island's other community anchor institutions—two townships, BI Community Center/WVBI radio tower, historical society, two airports, and other emergency operational entities—are funding, via a pools-of-service concept, the enhanced microwave system. This system will stay in place to provide redundancy after PFN's network is connected. In addition, these institutions are collaborating with Merit to gain broadband connections directly to their facilities. The Merit fiber network route to the CMU facilities coincides with the locations of nearly all the anchor institutions. Those facilities which, due to location, are not directly connected to the Merit route will use small microwaves/radio equipment to be connected to this network. This system should be operational in October or November 2025. In a separate island project, PFN and Merit are collaborating to use Merit's work to add a second buried conduit for the PFN fiber between the St. James Township Campground, the Beaver Island Hub, and the CMU Campground. The two campgrounds are the sites of the horizontal directional boring work to transition the PFN network on/off the island.

FIBER-TO-THE-HOME

There are two last-mile or Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) projects underway on the island.

TDS Telecom (TDS) has owned the Beaver Island Telephone Company since 1991. As the island's incumbent carrier, TDS provides landlines, 911 service, and internet service connection via DSL (a copper system) with some buried fiber for distribution purposes on the island.

The TDS network struggles to serve the growing island with lack of ports to connect this older technology. Intermittent outages caused by mainland issues, which includes the loss of 911 service, is indicative of the lack of reliability of the TDS system.

TDS has been awarded last-mile Federal Communication Commission grant monies to bring broadband services to their rural areas located throughout the U.S. that are unserved and underserved. Beaver Island is rated as both unserved and underserved in regard to a working internet system. In August 2025, TDS began building a FTTH project in a large portion of St. James Township covering 14 miles and 497 locations. The distribution system is expected to be completed in November 2025.

The schedule for the home connections is not clear. It appears that low-density areas within the township are not being served by this project. Another 73 miles and over 700 locations remain to be completed to cover all of Peaine Township and the low-density areas within St. James Township. TDS reports that they do not now have plans or capital to do this remaining work.

This new network will be connected to TDS' existing microwave tower on Sloptown Road, pending the completion of and connection to the PFN network. TDS has yet to market this new network, so the pricing and terms are not yet known.

The Beaver Island Association, a non-profit organization supporting economic and environmental efforts on the island, is developing a project to provide an island-wide FTTH network which will likely be owned by the two townships. With a grant from Michigan's Office of Rural Prosperity, a development and marketing plan project is underway to map out the network locations and costs as well as determine the number of potential customers to create a townships-owned broadband FTTH network.

A funding plan involving a small millage and municipal bonding will be presented to the electorate in 2026. If approved, the townships will engage a contractor to build the network in 2027 and an internet service provider to operate and maintain the network. The network will become live when the PFN connection is operational.

It is expected that a townships-owned network will be better, faster, more reliable, and cost less than what is provided by TDS or Starlink. Pending the results of the aforementioned grant project, it is currently estimated that 400 Mbps service (100× faster than the fastest TDS service) would cost $79/month.

Beaver Island District Library

Nibwaakaawin

INTERNET UPGRADE AND COMPUTER UPGRADES:

The Library received a grant to upgrade our computers—both public and staff—(from Charlevoix County Community Foundation and Northland Library Cooperative), and all are now online. We are using the older computers for the children's area for their gaming after school, Fiero Code, and other programs.

The Library is also connected for internet service through Merit. You may have noticed the equipment and large spools of conduit and wire being installed around the library/island. Merit service will give us more reliable and faster internet, as well as setting us up for the future broadband when it comes to the island.

NEA BIG READ SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER:

Get your copy of The Bear by Andrew Krivak at the Library and participate in book discussions coming up, including one with the author on January 26th.

More Big Read events include movies at the BIC Center, creative writing projects, and speaker engagements.

SEE BELOW:

- Oct. 4 – 6 p.m. The movie The Road will be shown at the BIC Center. A film adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, The Road is a post-apocalyptic tale of the survival of a father and his young son as they journey across a barren America that was destroyed by a mysterious cataclysm.
- Oct. 11 – 10 a.m. Lois Campbell will instruct us on how to preserve our harvested produce. Attend this enlightening event with Lois at the Library.
- TBD: Dark Sky Viewing: The Bear novel includes one character teaching another about the night sky constellations. The NEA Big Read program will include several events in collaboration with the Dark Sky group.

ENCOURAGEMENT:

Start your creative process by writing a poem, essay, or short story about surviving on Beaver Island. What do you do to "survive"? What tips might you give to a newcomer? Submit your work to the Library for inclusion in our self-published book, How to Survive on Beaver Island, by Dec. 15th. Copies will be available for purchase in the spring.

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE PRESENT AT THE BIDL IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER:

The Artists in Residence program was established by Seedkeepers to allow artists a chance to immerse themselves in nature for two weeks here on the island and to create works of art while here. Several have been here over the summer, and the Library has hosted their presentations. The last two were Valerie Mann and Steve Brown.

Steve Brown was at the Library on Sept. 11 to present some of his works while on the island. Several people were present to listen to his reading of his writings.

Valerie Mann was at the Library on Aug. 21 to show some of her artwork that she created while on the island.

AUTHOR VISIT:

James Hill visited the Library on Aug. 28 to talk about his new book, The King Must Die. He had a good crowd of folks eager to hear him talk.

BOOK CLUB:

The October book club (BOBI) read is Queens of Crime by Marie Benedict, a novel set in London, 1930. The five greatest women crime writers have banded together to form a secret society with a single goal: to show they are no longer willing to be treated as second-class citizens by their male counterparts in the legendary Detection Club. Led by the formidable Dorothy L. Sayers, the group includes Agatha Christie, Ngaio Marsh, Margery Allingham, and Baroness Emma Orczy. They call themselves the Queens of Crime. Their plan? Solve an actual murder, that of a young woman found strangled in a park in France who may have connections leading to the highest levels of the British establishment.

BOBI meets on October 15th at 3 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Multiple copies are available for loan at the Library or on Libby.

HOMESCHOOLERS GET TOGETHER:

Storytime is now called Homeschoolers Get Together and will include STEM opportunities, arts and crafts, and more for the homeschool kids. We meet on Tuesdays at 2:15 p.m.

KUZKO HISTORY AND FUTURE KIDDIE AVAILABLE:

The Library has purchased a subscription for Kuzko History and Future Kiddie. The school will be using it and evaluating whether to keep the subscription. The homeschool families will also be utilizing Kuzko History in their home program. Future Kiddie is a program to teach young children (under age six-ish) about computer use and safety. All are free to use through the Library. If any other families wish to try them out at home, please contact Jacque at the Library.

Babes and Toddlers will continue to meet on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. at the Library. Parents and children have the opportunity to socialize and play with several different types of sensory toys, etc.

LIBRARY PALS:

The Library will once again be connecting senior citizens with elementary school students for an hour of reading together each month. If you are interested in participating, contact Tara at the Library.

FIERO CODE CLUB:

Fiero Code Club will continue to meet weekly, but those who wish to learn more about coding need not attend the club meetings. Anyone can access and work on learning coding anywhere they have internet access. Contact the Library for more information.

LIGHT QUEST:

A new challenge begins Oct. 1 through Nov. 30. Using Code Blocks, create a video game that guides robots on their quest to reignite the light of Planet Fiero. Besides the prizes offered by Fiero, there will be local prizes offered by the Library.

FIERO BOOT CAMP:

Are you looking for another career opportunity? Fiero Code offers a Bootcamp Web Developer course, a Game Developer course, and a Beginner Robotics course that will get you started and ready for the job through online learning. Contact the Library for access.

HALLOWEEN PARTY:

We are excited to host a Halloween party again this year. Join us on Nov. 1 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for an old-fashioned Halloween. We will have snacks and drinks. Costumes are encouraged. Games, crafts, and prizes for all ages. We hope to see you there.

AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

We will be starting daily after-school activities with themes like Make and Take Crafts, Lego Club, Taste the World, and S.T.E.M. Your kids will be sure to find something fun to do. We strive to offer a safe and fun place for kids to come after school. Kids ages 9 years or younger must have an adult with them. Check our Facebook page as well as the Community Calendar for more details.

TEEN NIGHT:

Oct. 10, 6–8 p.m. Teens are invited to attend the Teen Night event. A Halloween-themed movie will be shown, with Halloween snacks—bring some of your own if you wish to share!

WISH LIST:

If anyone would like to contribute towards more native plants for the gardens, please donate to the Library.

Other options include donations for the Caitlin Boyle Memorial Garden, the Endowment Fund (book spines), or general use.

OCTOBER IS:

Cybersecurity Month: The Library has been focused on educating the public about cybersecurity threats and on protecting the Library from those threats as well. In June, we had a presenter who met with almost 20 people from the community to teach them how to protect themselves. Soon, we hope to have our staff and other organizations in the community, who wish to participate, trained in what to look for and how to ensure protection. Organizations and businesses interested should contact the Library for more information.

MICHIGAN LIBRARY APPRECIATION MONTH:

Show your appreciation for BIDL—become a friend, donate to our endowment fund (and buy a book spine), make a general donation, or volunteer.
Ask at the circulation desk how you can show your appreciation.
Read a book about a raptor this month! Fascinating birds!
Join our local book club: BOBI (Bookies of Beaver Island). We meet once a month on the third Wednesday at 3 p.m. Check at the Library for the monthly book to read.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ADDS TO HEALTH CENTER GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

By Frank D'Andraia

Have you bought a cup of coffee lately? Unfortunately, the cost of a cup of joe has followed the path of medical care costs... upward. While most people may be willing to cut back on their coffee consumption, cutting back on medical care is not an option.

Fortunately, financially vulnerable residents of Beaver Island can receive assistance with some medical and medical-related expenses by applying to the health center's Good Samaritan Fund (GSF). Recently, the Charlevoix County Community Foundation provided a $10,000 Urgent Needs Grant in support of the GSF, which has seen a significant increase in applications over the past two years.

The health center's Good Samaritan Fund was established in 2019. Since then, $37,235 in assistance has been provided to islanders in need. The demand for Good Samaritan assistance is projected to remain high for several reasons. First, there is an above-average concentration of seniors and retirees on the island. The median age of Beaver Island residents is 62. Michigan's median age is 40.4 years, which is slightly higher than the U.S. median age of 39.1 years, making Michigan one of the oldest states in the country and Beaver Island one of the grayest regions of Michigan. Studies have shown that seniors aged 62 and older are statistically more prone to diseases and chronic medical conditions.

Another issue is inflation, and a third is the recent legislative actions enacted by Congress to reduce Medicaid assistance and eligibility, which are expected to further accelerate applications for Good Samaritan assistance. Approximately 5% of the island's year-round population of about 750 individuals lack health insurance. Around 59% of island residents have public health insurance, in contrast to 38% in Michigan and 35% nationally. Public insurance includes Medicare (primarily for those aged 65 and over), Medicaid (a program for low-income individuals and families), and specialized insurance coverage such as that offered to Veterans (Veterans Health Administration) and Tribal members (Indian Health Service).

Center data indicates that the Good Samaritan Fund is used by various individuals and families facing unexpected medical emergencies and patients diagnosed with severe medical conditions. These groups often seek assistance to alleviate the financial burden of treatment and related travel expenses because they lack access to other resources or support. Additionally, application data indicates that the fund is used by seniors who need to make multiple trips to the mainland for treatments such as infusions, dialysis, or chemotherapy. RHC's Managing Director, Ann Partridge, said: "The health center board extends its gratitude to the Charlevoix County Community Foundation for their support of the center's Good Samaritan Fund, a critical resource for island residents requiring assistance with medical expenses." She added, "Grants and donations are important. They make a difference for the Beaver Island Rural Health Center and the island communities the center serves."

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation (C3F) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Charlevoix County, Michigan. Established in 1992, it focuses on building charitable resources and making grants to support various community needs.

The Beaver Island Rural Health Center, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is the primary care facility on Beaver Island. The RHC serves the local community by providing a range of health services aimed at ensuring access to quality healthcare for residents and visitors.

HEALTH CENTER RECIPIENT CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION 2025 MINI GRANT

By Frank D'Andraia

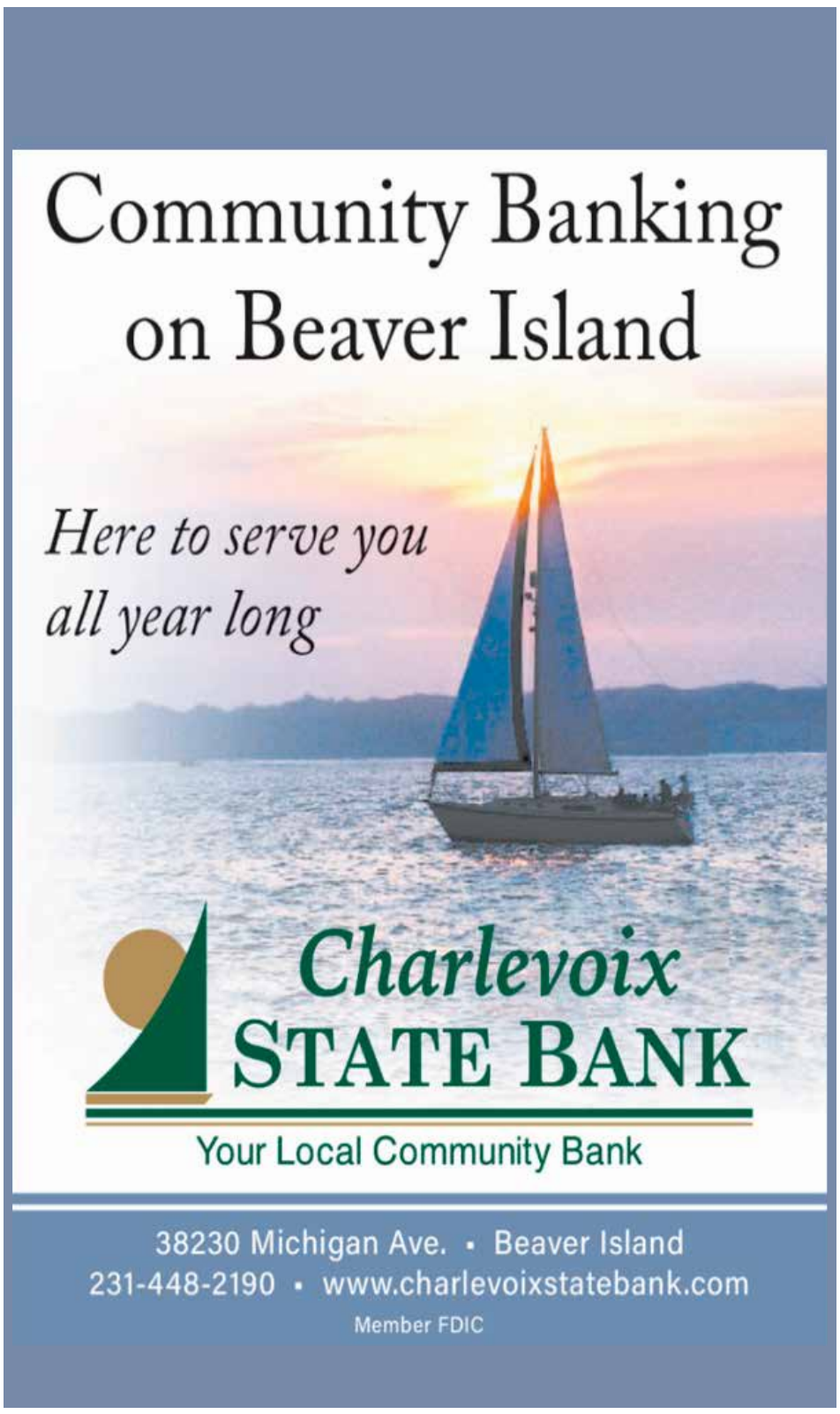
Many not-for-profit organizations, like the island's health center, find email to be the most direct and reliable way to connect with their supporters.

While social media can be a great way to reach donors, it's important to remember that these platforms are constantly changing. Today, we have Facebook and X, which are prominent, but not everyone uses them. Some prefer other platforms such as Instagram and LinkedIn. However, studies show that 99% of consumers check their email daily.

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation (C3F) has awarded the Rural Health Center a Mini Grant valued at $1,500 to assist the center in building a donor-based email list. C3F Mini Grants are "designed to fund projects that are small in scale, meet an unanticipated need or opportunity, help an organization with capacity building, or fall outside the timeline for our other responsive grant cycles. All eligible nonprofit partners may apply for grants of up to $1,500 at any time of year."

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Charlevoix County, Michigan. Established in 1992, it focuses on building charitable resources and making grants to support various community needs.

The Beaver Island Rural Health Center, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is the primary care facility on Beaver Island. The RHC serves the local community by providing a range of health services aimed at ensuring access to quality healthcare for residents and visitors.



BAY NORTH REALTY

26625 Chipmunk Trail
Beaver Island

An extreme level of craftsmanship has gone into this Lake Michigan home with coffered ceilings, hardwood custom cabinetry, radiant in-floor heat, custom stained glass windows, and restored antique lighting being just a few features. For efficiency there is wind and solar power with battery storage, and a geothermal HVAC system. Before you think this home takes itself too seriously, the confessional closet stores the audio system, the painted ceiling portrays the sunrise and sunset, and there are touches of whimsy and charm at every turn. The kitchen is sunny and thoughtfully designed with appliances hidden in unfitted cabinets, with plenty of counter space, large bar, and an antique steel painted ceiling. There are two offices on the main floor, one with cherry cabinetry, the other is beautifully finished in birdseye maple. The primary suite has a lovely tile and marble bathroom with an enviable walk in closet. There are two more ensuite bedrooms upstairs. You will love the sunroom that runs the length of the house on the water side with doors leading out from all of the adjoining rooms. The beautiful sandy beach has small rocks in the water. Located close to town, yet still very private, come enjoy Beaver Island in comfort and style!

Heather Robinson, Associate Broker

37785 King's Highway, Beaver Island
c: 231.350.9414
Heather@BayNorthRealty.com
o: 231.622.3235 I BayNorthRealty.com

McDonough's Market, Inc.

OVER 90 YEARS OF FAMILY FRIENDLY SERVICE!

- Full Line of Groceries
- Specialty Foods
- Fresh Cut Meat
- Cards & Gifts
- Fresh Produce & Dairy
- Beer, Wine & Liquor
- Beaver Island Clothing
- Household Goods

231-448-2733
38240 Michigan Ave
Beaver Island, MI 49782
mcdonoughsmarket.com

SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

VERSUS

HEART ATTACK

ELECTRICAL

PLUMBING

THEY ARE NOT THE SAME

OCTOBER is

National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month

Sudden Cardiac Arrest is a leading cause of death in the United States, taking the lives of more than 356,000 people each year, including more than 23,000 youth under age 18.

BEAVER ISLAND RURAL HEALTH CENTER

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Victim	Heart Attack Victim
Electrical malfunction causes the heart to suddenly and unexpectedly stop beating	Blockage in coronary arteries interrupts blood flow to the heart
Can happen at any age, including children and teens	Happens mostly in people over age 35
Person is unresponsive and NOT breathing	Person is responsive and breathing
Person may gasp or shake, as if having a seizure	Person may experience chest, neck or left arm pain, shortness of breath, sweating or nausea
Call 911	Call 911
People nearby must start CPR immediately to triple chance of survival	Responsive victims don't need CPR/AED
The use of an AED, is the only way to restart a heart; AEDs can be used by anyone	Start CPR if person becomes unresponsive and experiences sudden cardiac arrest

BEAVER ISLAND FOOD PANTRY SEEKS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS
Submitted by Beth Croswhite

The Beaver Island Food Pantry needs financial help! We need to order our winter's shelf-stable foods before the ferry stops in December, but our bank account is slim.

Please consider donating to the Food Pantry and help your neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity through the winter. Food insecurity does not only mean bare cupboards; it also includes making financial decisions between paying a bill (e.g., utilities or rent) or buying food for the family!

To send a donation check, please make it out to the Beaver Island Christian Church, and list Food Pantry in the memo. Please mail it to Food Pantry, Box 21, Beaver Island, MI 49782. Thank you!

CLOSING YOUR CABIN?

Consider donating unopened, shelf-stable food to the Pantry instead of the mice!

There are five white laundry baskets around the island to collect food, unopened cleaning supplies, or personal care items. Locations include: Beaver Island Rural Health Center, Holy Cross Church, Beaver Island Christian Church, Beaver Island Community Center, and Fresh Air Aviation.

Thank you for helping your neighbors this winter!

BEAVER ISLAND SIGHTINGS

Attention readers: If you have caught a glimpse of Beaver Island around Michigan, the USA, or even across the globe, snap a quick picture and share it with the Northern Islander along with the location you saw it for a shout-out. And, bring your picture into the Old Mormon Print Shop for a prize!

Beaver Island is everywhere!

Send pictures to **editor@beaverislandhistory.org**

A little piece of Beaver Island was spotted in Arlington, Virginia, by Mike Broder

ON THE FRONT PORCH WITH JACK BAILEY

By Michelle LaFreniere

Everyone's Front Porch looks a little different. Depending on the day, it's either a beautiful view of the harbor or looking over lots of rabbits, airplanes, and boxes for Jack Bailey. Jack has been on the island for just over two years. He has not wasted a single minute finding his niche here.

Jack came to the island with his girlfriend, Kaylyn Jones. She is a local girl from an old island family. He had no idea what he was in for. Kaylyn is related to just about everyone. It was overwhelming the first time he visited with her, but he quickly fell in love with it.

Jack was born in Rochester, Michigan. It is a little bigger than the island. He hadn't heard much about it before he started dating Kaylyn. He thought it was mostly camping and things like that. It did not help that his first visit was during a blizzard, and they couldn't even get to the island on the first day they tried. Kaylyn had told him so much about the island, her family, and friends that he decided to stick it out until they got here. They flew to the island with Paul Welke. He had never met him, so that was cool to him. Kaylyn told him that Paul was the best pilot, so that eased his mind.

I met up with Jack while he was at work at the Beachcomber. I could see why everyone loves him. He has all the qualities of a great bartender. He moved up and down the bar smoothly, never getting ruffled, so to speak. He had a kind word for everyone, and knew his regular customers and what they liked. The best quality I noticed was that he listened. Everyone had something to tell him about their day, or their lives. He really listened but kept up with all his patrons.

He has fallen in love with the Gull Harbor Natural Area. He lives in town and works late nights, so when he is driving around after work, it is a great quiet location to just unwind and watch the night sky. It is a good place to see the Northern Lights too. During the day, he likes to take his dogs for walks out there.

Let me tell you about his dogs, they are the cutest things, two little miniature dachshunds. When he and Kaylyn got the dogs, Kaylyn could not decide which one to get, so Jack went out to pick between the two. He came home with both. It then took them nearly a month to pick their names. They finally settled on Cosmo and Wanda. Their names fit them perfectly. They also have Kaylyn's giant cat, named GiGi. GiGi's role in the household is to torture Jack all night long.

Something that I did not know about Jack was that he went to art school. He is a graphic artist. I knew he liked to play around with it, but did not realize that he went to college for it. I always thought to myself whenever I saw things that he had done, "that guy missed his calling." Brian Schild was sitting a few stools down and pulled out his wallet and showed us his business cards. Jack did the graphic art for that. Really nice work.

He draws quite a bit and does graphic art on the computer, and even does some animation. His current project is comic strips. He grew up loving comic books, and in his downtime, he enjoys working on them.

He doesn't have much free time though. He joined the Fire Department after only living here for about two weeks. He had met a lot of the guys from the department, and they encouraged him to attend a meeting to see if it was something he would be interested in doing. He went to the next meeting just to see what it was about. He thought he would tour the station and ask some questions. He met Tim McDonough for the first time. Tim handed him a clipboard and asked him to write down his name, phone number, and social security number.

Jack asked, "Social Security number? I thought I was here for a tour?" Tim grinned and said, "Welcome to the Department." He is happy to be giving back to the community.

Jack and Kaylyn host Trivia Nights at the Community Center a couple of times a month during the winter. Jack says it takes some time to develop the questions, but it is a great way to meet people. They enjoy doing it. Kaylyn oversees the questions, and he makes them look pretty on the computer.

Jack loves the fall season. It is upon us. The gradual change gives him a chance to slow down and hang with friends more. The weather is perfect, and besides, he loves apple picking and the colors of the season. He has some cousins he hopes will come for hunting season. It will be his first family to visit. He thinks they will be hooked too.

Jack is an only child, raised by a single mother. His grandparents helped a lot, as his mom worked in the aviation industry and traveled for work. By "traveled for work" I mean all over the world. Jack was able to accompany her at times. Some of the notable places he has been include Greece, Paris, Norway, and South Africa, where he even got to do a safari hunt. He spent an entire summer in Shanghai, China. He was able to visit Tokyo, Japan, that summer as well. Some trips were longer than others, but he loved them all. His mom still works in the aviation industry, but now works from home.

In addition to his art, Jack also likes to write. He does a little hunting, and a little fishing. Jack is happy here. He loves both of his jobs, and he is quite social, so they are right up his alley. One thing he has his sights on, as far as an island goal, is that he wants to hike every trail with his dogs.

We're happy you are here too, Jack. Happy hiking.

NEW BALTIMORE NATIVE RETURNS ‘HOME’ TO BEAVER ISLAND WITH HER JAZZ TRIO

FOR BLUE WATER HEALTHY LIVING
By Jim Bloch

Claudia Schmidt, the folk and jazz artist, was born and raised in New Baltimore, Michigan. Her very first gig—as a teenager too young to drive—took place at the NCO Club at Selfridge Field, sitting in with the band in her royal blue double-knit dress, chauffeured to the base and chaperoned by her parents.

Even though she has played music around the world, the home of her heart may be Beaver Island, the remote outpost in northern Lake Michigan where she has now lived for almost a quarter century. But her roots on the island run deeper than dune grass.

Already an established mid-career folk musician, Schmidt and her partner at the time opened The Rectory, a fine dining restaurant and bar featuring live music, on the island in the fall of 1996 and operated it until 2001. “About five years,” she said after her August 14 show at the Beaver Island Community Center, backed by bassist Andy Evans and pianist Steve Stargardt.

The restaurant, a former rectory, sits just outside of town on a hill next to the Catholic cemetery. It was called the Circle M before Schmidt took it over, and it’s called the Circle M now.

Running The Rectory was not always her favorite thing to do.

“Opening a restaurant was a great way to jump-start my (musical) career,” she said during a folk concert on the island about a decade ago.

But it led to her first jazz CD in 2001, Live at the Old Rectory Pub, with her jazz band, the Jump Boys. The trumpet player in that band had walked into an open mic night at The Rectory and planted a musical seed that is still growing; Stargardt was the piano player in the group.

The main link to the island from the mainland is the Beaver Island Ferry, a two-and-a-half-hour trip out of Charlevoix to the tiny port of St. James on Paradise Bay.

“Coming on the boat this morning, seeing the beautiful skyline of St. James—wow,” she said. The skyline is made up of trees, a smattering of two-story clapboard storefronts, and a collage of cottages.

“My parents are both in eternal rest on the island,” Schmidt said. She sang their favorite song, the Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald tune “Love Is Here to Stay.”

Her older brother died a year ago and is also buried on the island. She sang his favorite song, too—“Shenandoah.”

Schmidt mixed her highly emotional songs with lighter, sometimes funny fare, including one of her so-called Covid hits, written early in the pandemic when everyone was washing their groceries and trying not to put their hands on their lips or in their eyes.

“I didn’t know my hands could consume more alcohol than my mouth,” she said. “So, I wrote a tango.”

The lyric runs: “I reach for my beloved, and he says/You can touch me almost anyplace/But don’t touch my face.”

BEAVER ISLAND JAZZ

The Beaver Island Jazz Series is sponsored by the Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance, the Beaver Island Community Center, and the island’s radio station, WVBI, which features jazz music daily on Jazz Night Watch (10 p.m.–6 a.m.), Cool Jazz Countdown (Wednesdays at 10 p.m.), and Full Moon Hacksaw (Sundays at 10 p.m.).

The next opportunity to hear live jazz at the BIC is October 11 at 7:30 p.m., when the Caffeine Patrol presents an evening of Western swing and hillbilly jazz.

POETRY AND JAZZ

Now and then between songs, Schmidt shifted to spoken word poetry.

Mary Oliver’s The Summer Day struck an especially resonant chord on an island that is comprised largely of woods, wetlands, beaches, and old Mormon farm fields.

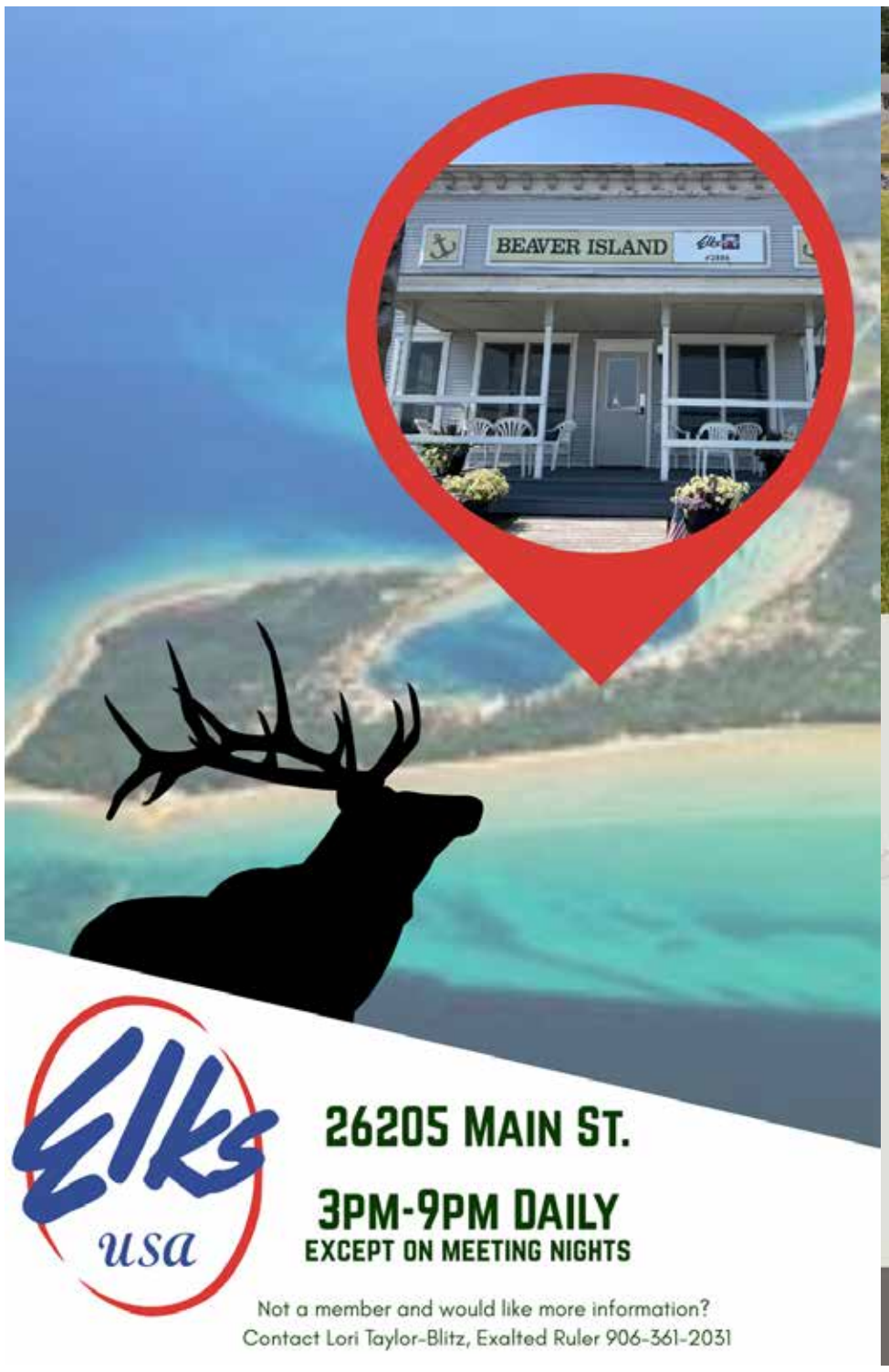
“I don’t know exactly what a prayer is,” recited Schmidt. “I do know how to pay attention,/how to fall down/into the grass, how to kneel down/in the grass,/how to be idle and blessed, how to/stroll through the fields,/which is what I’ve been doing all day./Tell me, what else should I have done?/Doesn’t everything die at last, and too soon?/Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?”

Pictured are bassist Andy Evans, vocalist Claudia Schmidt, and pianist Steve Stargardt on Beaver Island.

Jim Bloch is a freelance writer based in St. Clair, Michigan. Contact him at bloch.jim@gmail.com.

GREGORY LARSON
ARCHITECT

1514 Mifflin Street
Huntingdon, PA 16652
greglarsonarchitect@gmail.com (P) 814.599.1112



Elks USA

26205 MAIN ST.

3PM-9PM DAILY
EXCEPT ON MEETING NIGHTS

Not a member and would like more information?
Contact Lori Taylor-Blitz, Exalted Ruler 906-361-2031

HARBOR VIEW
MOTEL & CONDOS

OUR SERVICES

- Two-bedroom condominiums
  - accommodates 4-6
- Motel room
  - accommodates 2-4
- Across the road from the ferry
- Views of Paradise Bay
- The Island's ONLY private swimming pool
  - open mid-June thru Labor Day
- Free Parking
- Free Wi-Fi
- Picnic tables & Horseshoes
- Large lawn, perfect for families

BOOK NOW

CONTACT US
231-448-2201
harborviewbeaverisland.com
26246 King's Hwy, B.I. 49782

Ed Wojan Realty- *Your KEY to Beaver Island*

Edward B. Wojan - Broker
231-448-2711 Office
231-313-8682-Cell

Celebrating
50 years
In BI Real Estate

38535 Wild Woods Court

A one bedroom, one bathroom, 1062 sq. ft. cozy chalet cabin near the South end of Wild Woods Court with three large lots (Lots 407, 408 & 409). This is a professionally constructed and well maintained home in a very private area in the woods with lots of wildlife visible most of the year. It is just South of Indian Point, on the Northwest corner of the Island. There is a home of a year-round resident across the street. A lot of clearing has been done around this cottage so that it gets sunlight into the forest opening with pretty green lawns. It is move -in ready and can be used year-round. It has a nice open floor plan, with a cozy bedroom up-stairs. There is a deck on the Southwest side of the home (inland side) with a great view of the yards and woods. It has durable laminate wood floors. A new roof was installed in 2019. It has electric baseboard heat throughout the house. It also has a high quality, long-life electric hot water heater. Being in the Port St. James Subdivision, it has a tremendous amount of beaches, other Lake Michigan access points (including two access spots just up the road from this home) and a lot of other common areas. It is just a little over 5 minutes from the center of the town of St. James, and minutes from Donegal Bay. This offering includes two extra lots that have a separate well and septic system already installed. The extra lots measure 160 ft. in width and 380 ft. in length. The raw land value with the 2 wells and extra septic system total over $60,000. With the cost of building and finishing this house itself over $400,000, this offering is priced low at the asking price of **$295,000.**

Ed Wojan Realty - 26300 Back Highway - Beaver Island, MI 49782 - www.edwojanrealty.com

ISLAND AIRWAYS
BEAVER ISLAND

Operated by McPhillips Flying Service, Inc.
Beaver Island's committed aviation service provider.

Safe, efficient, and fun ride to Beaver Island
Only a 15 minute flight! • Pet Friendly • FAA Certified Air Ambulance
Here to serve all your freight needs.

www.islandairways.com
111 Airport Drive Charlevoix, MI 49720

Call For Your Reservation Today
Toll Free: 800-524-6895
Charlevoix: 231-547-2141 • Beaver Island: 231-448-2071

3RD ANNUAL LADIES SHUFFLEBOARD TOURNAMENT

By Robin Broder

The weather and camaraderie were great for the 3rd Annual Ladies Shuffleboard Tournament hosted this year on Bois Blanc. Eight women from the Beaver Island Shuffleboard Sisters team arrived on August 21 to a warm welcome from the Bois Blanc (BobLo) Bitches. While the Boblo ladies take their shuffleboard very seriously, they are also serious about being generous and gracious hosts. They arranged for free rooms at The Hideaway Bed & Breakfast, loaned us cars, and recruited sponsors for the tournament like the Lakeside Tavern.

Trish Scott, Vicky Smith, Sue Snow, Joan Callan, Lisa Franz, Robin Broder, Barb DeRosia, and Chris Heikka.

After an afternoon of sightseeing on the island, we were greeted by many Bois Blanc islanders at the Lakeside Tavern to play shuffleboard. Did I mention they take their shuffleboard seriously? They even broadcast the game on a screen in an overflow tent outside. The eight Beaver Islanders played with lots of heart and were cheered on by everyone in the bar.

We are very happy to report we won two of the seven matches on a traditional regulation-size shuffleboard! On Beaver Island, we usually practice on the shorter board at the Shamrock, which is shorter than a regulation sized board.

No sooner had we ended the tournament, we all began planning for next year's tournament on Beaver Island! Angel and Paul Welke of Island Airways made our flights to and from Bois Blanc a breeze. Paul even added a bonus tour of islands and lighthouses on our way home. We love how our two islands are becoming good friends and hope to give them a big Beaver Island welcome next August!

Pictured: The Beaver Island Shuffleboard Sisters posing with the Bois Blanc Bitches

Pictured:

PLEASE JOIN THE
BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOR THEIR ANNUAL

HOLIDAY SOCIAL

DECEMBER 05 2025, 6 PM

Visit the Print Shop Museum & vote on the holiday trees decorated by the generous sponsors & their respected helpers

All proceeds will go to the BIHS & keeping island history alive

---

Beaver Island Historical Society

SEEKING HOLIDAY TREE SPONSORS

The Plan:

- Each sponsor will decorate a tree at the Historical Society by **11/7/2025** with provided or home-brought ornaments.
- The Museum will open so the public can vote on their favorite tree at $1.00 per vote.

The Winner:

- Winner will receive a $50 gift certificate to the BIHS gift shop and a feature on the Northern Islander website!

The Goal:

- Raise money for the Beaver Island Historical Society
- Spend time with other community members during the holidays
- Keeping spirits bright & cheery

Who Can Sponsor?

- Businesses
- Organizations
- Families
- Individuals

CALL OR VISIT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR MORE INFORMATION

231-448-2254 • 26275 MAIN STREET

RESEARCHING THE GREAT LAKES: NOAA'S MISSION IN THE BEAVER ISLAND ARCHIPELAGO

By Marie G. Tuohy

Living eight hours from Beaver Island most of the year, I rely on the Internet to keep close to island life. Power's Hardware webcam is perfect to watch the 4th of July Parade, or the ferry boats unloading, or a funeral procession, or for gauging interest in Community Center events. The Beaver Island Community Center's website (*https://wvbi.biccenter.org/webcams*) features views of Greene's Bay as well as a great view of the ferry dock, the Mackinac Bridge cam and the Charlevoix Channel and Bridge cams. The Bridge Cam at Charlevoixcam.com offers audio as well as video, and the bells and horns are music to my ears.
On Sunday afternoon, September 7, as Féile attendees and performers returned to the mainland, bagpipers were playing on the Emerald Isle!

The free Marine Traffic app shows ships and boats—tens of thousands of them—all over the globe. The span from Charlevoix to St. James catches my attention most days. Passenger ships and ferries appear as bright blue icons and show the real-time location of the Beaver Islander and the Emerald Isle as they cross back and forth from April to December. Tugboats Jennifer Anne Fogg and Clyde W. Fogg appear in aqua as they haul cargo between Paradise Bay and Ironton.

Pictured is the NOAA vessel R3105 at the Beaver Island Municipal Marina in September.

A boat identified as NOAA R3105 was at the Beaver Island Municipal Marina–South during most of June 2025. I emailed Harbormaster Vicky Fingeroot to ask about it, and she said that it planned to be back in the late summer. Thank you to Vicky for putting me in contact with the R3105 when it returned.
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is an agency of the United States Federal Government. The R3105's crew is led by Captain Ossian Foley, NOAA Affiliate, Cardinal Point Captains, Inc., in support of NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory. Captain Foley has answered my questions in the Q&A that follows.

Marie—What kind of research or studies is NOAA doing in northern Lake Michigan? Mapping? Weather observation? Fisheries related? Invasive species monitoring?

Captain Foley—Our work this spring and summer in the Beaver Island archipelago has been part of the Great Lakes Benthic Mapping project (*https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/project/benthic-mapping-ground-truthing-and-habitat-modeling-to support-great-lakes-restoration/*). The collective effort is to make maps of the near shore lake bed of all the Great Lakes, out to about 80 meters of depth. In the Beaver Island area, R3105 has been ground truthing bathymetric data (depth, bottom type) out to about 10 meters of depth. We use a variety of cameras and a sediment dredge to visualize the bottom characteristics at a substantial number of randomly selected sites to help computer modelers describe the lakebed using sonar and LiDAR data collected earlier by boat and plane. The project is focused on precisely locating critical fish habitats, as well as documenting the prevalence or not of invasive species, though the maps and data produced from our efforts should be even more useful. The data, the maps, and all the images we collect are funded by public dollars and so will be available to the public. The link above is a good place to watch for these products to be published in the future.

Marie—Please tell us about your vessel and its operations.

Captain Foley—NOAA R3105 is a small boat—in fact, it is part of the NOAA Small Boat Program. It's about 36 feet long overall. It's a nifty vessel. We only recently received it from the U.S. Navy. It and a sister ship–R3104–were designed for the Navy to make sonar maps in remote areas, very fast, and to be safe and reliable while doing so. The boat can sort of fold up into itself so that it could fit inside an airplane for deployment anywhere the Navy needed a quick map.

We don't live on the boat and there is no berthing. It's all computers and circuitry. And a tidy, little corner for me to sit in to drive smart people around. The boat is operated by the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, Lake Michigan Field Station in Muskegon, MI. Like all of the vessels operated by NOAA on the Great Lakes, it can, and does, go anywhere in the region. This year, R3105 has worked from Beaver Island, Muskegon, Duluth, MN, and Naubinway, MI. Last year it was in the Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary for six months. The year before that, Door County for a while and the Apostle Islands. Unmapped portions of Lakes Huron and Ontario are possible destinations in the next couple of years.

Marie—How many persons are typically aboard for a cruise?

Captain Foley—Typically, we are a crew of 3-4, depending on which instruments are being used. There's a boat operator, a data specialist, and at least one technician handling the actual equipment and sensors on deck. R3105's core crew are not scientists but rather smart, handy, detail-oriented people who communicate well with the scientists at our field station and labs in Michigan and Silver Spring, MD.

We often have partners aboard, such as benthic ecologists from headquarters providing instruction, guidance, and oversight. Or, like this week [early September], we have field researchers from Michigan Technical University aboard with their specialized equipment. The boat's core crew are NOAA affiliates and our primary research partners are MTU. However, the project itself is much larger and has collaborative partnerships with other state and federal agencies. The project managers seek out and receive input from regional scientists and knowledgeable locals to help determine and prioritize the important places to investigate and map, and again to help disseminate the resulting maps and the data we collect.

Marie—What special types of instruments or tools or machines are onboard?

Captain Foley—We carry a "drop camera" that takes high-resolution underwater video and a PONAR dredge to bring up sediment samples from the bottom. Our partners from MTU operate an ROV equipped with multiple video cameras and sonar, and an AUV with a still-frame camera and side-scan sonar. All of the platforms use a hydroacoustic positioning system to track the camera's location in the water and on the lakebed. We are able to collect high quality images, video, and sonar data of precise points on the lakebed.

Marie—Have you enjoyed your visits to our unique island? Have the islanders made you feel welcome? Is your operation completed?

Captain Foley—We have enjoyed our time on Beaver Island very much and have been made to feel very welcome! The marina received us a few weeks before their scheduled opening date and made sure we had power and fuel to do our work. We've been staying at the Central Michigan University Biological Station which has provided a ton of support and comfort, helping us do a lot of work in a short amount of time. And we have especially depended on Wild Strawberry Cafe for camaraderie, great food, and a steady supply of coffee. Everyone we've talked to around the island has been curious and enthusiastic and had intelligent things to offer. It's been really fun working here. We are just about finished with our work in the archipelago. There's still a lot of unmapped geology and habitat out here, especially in the deeper areas between the islands.

My gratitude to the crew of NOAA R3105 for the above discussion of its work in the Beaver Island area and its contributionsto the ecological and economic vitality of our region. Thank you also to every islander who welcomed and assisted the crew.

BINGHAM INSURANCE Charlevoix
231.547.4062
info@binghaminsurance.net

Auto-Owners INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

McDonough Construction Inc.
Over 30 years in business!

Office: 231-448-3038

Office Location:
36626 Kings Hwy, Beaver Island
(Building 3 behind the Eager Beaver Clean and Store)

mcdonoughconstructioninc@gmail.com

General Contractors Specializing in:

- Commercial Construction
- Residential Construction
- Property Management Construction
- Home, Cottage, & Cabin Consultations
- Applegate Spray Foam Insulation
- Insurance Claims
- Water Mitigation
- Garages, Pole Barns & Decks
- Excavation
- Home Remodeling
- Foundations
- Concrete Flat Work

Ed Wojan Realty

"Your ***Key*** to Beaver Island"

- Selling Beaver Island Real Estate since 1976
- Invaluable Island Knowledge
- Realtor Emeritus of National Association of Realtors
- 5th Generation Island Resident
- Drawing Director Wojan/Cashman Beaver Island Map
- An Expert at Arranging Financing
- Reputation for Detail and Accurate Closings
- Generously Facilitated the Conversion of 80 Private Properties to Public Land for Everyone's Enjoyment

Edward B. Wojan – Broker
231-313-8682 Cell

26300 Back Highway P.O. Box 86
Beaver Island, MI 49782

www.edwojanrealty.com
info@edwojanrealty.com

231-448-2711 Office

REALTOR® MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE MLS®

COMMUNITY COLLAGE

Beaver Island at a glance

Photos provided by George Broder, Robin Broder, Elsie Burton, and Sophie McDonough

Emerald Isle Irish Feile photos by Alchemy Creative Mt. Pleasant

The Kids' Corner

Sponsored by the Beaver Island Coffee Company

CAN YOU FINISH THE DRAWING?

TIC TAC TOE!

BEST 2 OUT OF 3 WINS!

Beaver Island COFFEE CO.

hello FALL

Don't forget to bring your completed kids' page to the Beaver Island Print Shop Museum for a prize!

AND, send a picture of you and your page to **editor@beaverislandhistory.org** to be featured in the monthly paper!

· Joke Corner ·

WHY DID THE SCARECROW WIN AN AWARD?

ANSWER: HE WAS OUTSTANDING IN HIS FIELD

BEAVER ISLAND IRISH HERITAGE GROUP CELEBRATES SUCCESS OF 2025 EMERALD ISLE IRISH FÉILE

HEARTFELT GRATITUDE EXTENDED TO SPONSORS, DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND THE ENTIRE BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY

By Kathleen "Kitty" McNamara

The Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group is delighted to announce that the 2025 Emerald Isle Irish Féile was an outstanding success, thanks to the collective effort and generosity of our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and the vibrant Beaver Island community. This year's festival showcased the enduring spirit and camaraderie that define Beaver Island, and we are deeply grateful to all who contributed to this remarkable celebration of Irish heritage.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SPONSORS AND DONORS

We extend our sincere thanks to our financial sponsors, whose support made the festival possible, and to our in-kind sponsors for their invaluable contributions. Special appreciation goes to the Calling of the Clans donors, whose generosity helped sustain the rich traditions and programs that make the Féile unique. For a complete list of 2025 sponsors, see 2025 Supporters | Emerald Isle Irish Féile. And a special thank you to the sponsors and donors who choose to remain anonymous - we salute you and thank you for your generous trust.

RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS, VENUES, AND HOSTS

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the dedicated volunteers who gave their time and energy, ensuring each event ran smoothly. We thank the venues that opened their doors to festival events and extend special recognition to our home hosts and vehicle hosts, whose hospitality and assistance were instrumental in welcoming guests and artists from near and far.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ESSENTIAL SUPPORTERS

We offer special thanks to Island Airways and the Beaver Island Boat Company for their steadfast support, facilitating transportation and logistics for festival attendees and participants. Their commitment is vital to the success of our annual celebration.

INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITION

The festival's success would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of the Cole brothers—Ray and Brian—whose dedication and expertise helped bring our vision to life. We also express our gratitude to Jeff Anderson for his meticulous coordination of logistics and setup, ensuring every detail was quietly managed with care and professionalism.

CULTURAL PARTNERS: MAINTAINING

FESTIVAL AUTHENTICITY

We are especially thankful to our Arranmore friends, whose continued partnership and cultural insights help maintain the authenticity and spirit of the Emerald Isle Irish Féile, connecting Beaver Island to its Irish roots in meaningful ways. The cultural presentation "Arranmore: The Rest of the Story" researched and presented by Beaver Islander Kevin Green and implemented with the help of Jerry Early and Friends from Arranmore helped the audience understand life on Arranmore for those who did not emigrate to Beaver Island. The presentation ended with a beautiful rendition of the song "Two Islands, One Soul" written by Jerry Early and John Gallagher and performed by Arranmore and Beaver Island musicians.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: YEAR-ROUND DEDICATION

We commend the board of directors for their unwavering commitment and leadership throughout the year. Their guidance and hard work behind the scenes are the foundation upon which the festival thrives. This year, the board implemented the festival without the presence of board chairperson, Paul Cole, who is dealing with health issues that kept him away from the island, but not from the spirit of the festival. Paul's ongoing support and nurturing of the board has allowed this festival to grow in ways we never thought possible when it was hatched in 2019.

COMMUNITY APPRECIATION AND CLOSING

Finally, we honor the Beaver Island community for embracing the Féile and fostering an environment of warmth and hospitality. Your enthusiasm and support celebrate the very best of Irish heritage and island life.

For more information about the Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group and upcoming events, please visit *www.irishfeile.com*.

Thank you for making the 2025 Emerald Isle Irish Féile a resounding success!

Photo credit: Alchemy Creative Mt. Pleasant

Go raibh míle maith agaibh
for an unforgettable Feile!

To our Donors, Sponsors, Venues, Volunteers, Ticket Holders, and the Beaver Island Community— Thank you for your support in making the 2025 Emerald Isle Irish Féile possible.

Celebrating over 30 years in business!

HOGARTH'S

Pest Control Company

Wildlife & Animal Removal

CONTACT US TODAY!
(231) 264-6060 OR (800) 264-6161

www.hogarthspestcontrol.com | info@hogarthspestcontrol.com

"THE BUG STOPS HERE!"

SPECIALIZING IN
CARPENTER ANTS, SPIDERS & WEB SWEEPING, RODENTS, WASPS,
BATS, AND ALL OF YOUR PEST AND WILDLIFE CONTROL NEEDS!

LOCAL | FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

BEAVER ISLAND PERFORMING ARTS ALLIANCE - OUR 24TH SEASON IN REVIEW

By Matthew Thomas

A summer full of world-class musical events was staged once more on our lovely island to the delight of sold-out audiences. The Beaver Island Jazz Series (in partnership with the Beaver Island Community Center) featured the guitar/vocal duo Edye & Mike (edyeandmike.com), the Claudia Schmidt Trio (claudiaschmidt.com), and the St. James Jazz Ensemble at Whiskey Point Brewing. Baroque Week added a new event, Brass by the Bay, with assistance from Beth Croswhite. There was a return of choral music with a brilliant performance by the young singers of VoxGR (voxgr.com) under the direction of Christopher Mason. Our third Young Soloist Competition allowed us to host cellist Violet Weizer in a concerto with the Festival Orchestra. Thanks to a grant from the Amster-Galati Foundation, we sponsored Associate Conductor Nathan Bieber for the first of three seasons. Music by living composers was showcased both during the New + Next evening concert and with an orchestral piece by Mark Ingebretsen. We welcomed the recent Leeds Competition winner, pianist Jaeden Izik-Dzurko (askonasholt.com/artist/jaeden-izik-dzurko), for another virtuoso recital, which helped to raise the funds needed to continue our programming.

The centerpiece of the Festival continued to be the orchestral and chamber music performances from our decorated roster of artists who return each year under the brilliant direction of Music Director Robert Nordling (*robertnordling.com*).

We wish to thank all of you in the Beaver Island community; our partners at the Beaver Island Community Center, Beaver Island Historical Society, Beaver Island Community School, Beaver Island Christian Church, Brothers' Place, Beaver Island Transit, Beaver Island Boat Company, Fresh Air Aviation, Central Michigan University Biological Station, Beaver Island Studio & Gallery, St. James Township, Island Airways, Beaver Island Lodge, Erin Motel, Emerald Island Inn, Wild Strawberry, Bodega Catering, and McDonough's Market; the volunteers who give their time and talent; the hosts who open their homes to our artists; and our audiences, sponsors, advertisers, and donors for their generous support.

For more information on all our upcoming activities, please visit *www.baroqueonbeaver.org*.

Do you have a story to share?

Email your story to
editor@beaverislandhistory.org
for review!

Pictured are this year's seniors, Sophie McDonough, Lysander McGinnity, Lexi Pease, Kira Turner, Izzabella DeLaat, and Ike Bontrage (not pictured) celebrating the new school year with a Senior Sunrise on August 29.

Ride the Boat to Beaver Island

DISCOVER EVEN MORE WITH OUR GUIDED VAN TOURS!

231-547-2311
WWW.BIBCO.COM

BEAVER ISLAND BOAT COMPANY

Beaver Island's BEST RATES

Earl Young-designed Architecture
Seasonal Outdoor Heated Pool & Deck | Indoor Hot Tub Tower
Harbor & Bridge Views | Complimentary Continental Breakfast
Adjacent to Miles of Walkable Lake Michigan Beach

Airport Pick-Up Service by Reservation | 1 Block to Ferry & Downtown Shopping | Free Check-in Gift when Mentioning this Ad

W

Weathervane Terrace
INN & SUITES

800.552.0025 | 231.547.9955 | weathervane-chx.com
info@weathervane-chx.com | 111 Pine River Lane, Charlevoix, Michigan 49720

DOWNTOWN CHARLEVOIX'S ONLY AAA HOTEL
CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE tripadvisor
SPECIALS & OFFERS

BEAVER ISLAND BOAT COMPANY ADDRESSES FREIGHT POLICIES

By Tim McQueer, Beaver Island Boat Company President

Every mode of transportation to and from Beaver Island charges for any amount of luggage and/or freight over a certain weight. Each customer is allowed a certain amount of luggage with each passenger fare.

At the Beaver Island Boat Company (BIBCO), we allow 50 pounds per person (roughly two bags) of luggage to be included free with each passenger fare. We define luggage as suitcases, duffel bags, backpacks, briefcases, tote bags, cosmetic/personal bags, garment bags, pillows, sleeping bags, and 18-gallon totes or smaller. We DO NOT consider items like coolers of any size, camping gear, golf clubs, tires, beer, wine, or groceries as luggage; those would be freight items. All freight items must be declared and paid for before travel. The minimum freight charge is $5.00. All fees are one-way, and if you are traveling with these items round-trip, there will be fees for each direction.

When you board an airplane, each item is carefully weighed, and passengers are charged according to the excess weight. With our large volume of customers, we need to serve them quickly to ensure our customers can make the boat departure time, so we can't take the time to weigh each item. In the interest of serving our customers as quickly as we can and avoiding long lines, we primarily rely on the honor system. This system is built on a foundation of trust, and we believe it is the best way to continue providing you with expedient service while keeping our costs low and our service simple.

Our relationship with our customers is based on mutual respect, and until recently, this has worked quite well. I believe that some customers are not aware of our luggage policy, and we will continue to work on better informing new customers.

Unfortunately, a small group of customers finds our luggage policy unfair and chooses to arrive late, opting not to claim items that do not qualify as luggage or exceed their allotted luggage allowance. If you were to travel off the island by any other method, you would be charged for any excess baggage.

Our luggage personnel are predominantly younger staff members. For many of them, this is their first job. Despite the training they have been provided instructing them to inform customers when they have excess luggage, they do not feel comfortable doing so. Our staff have had a difficult time telling customers that they have excess luggage, as they are afraid to do so. Customers have screamed at them, thrown things, cursed, lied to them, and told them that they have never been charged before. If in the past you were unaware of our luggage policy and did not claim your excess baggage or freight, that does not mean that when you are informed of the policy, you can continue to ignore it. The staff members are following guidelines set by me and the BIBCO board.

If you are concerned or upset about the luggage policy, please address it with a manager. These young staff members are doing their jobs, and I would like them to return year after year to help serve our customers. Please treat them as you would like your child to be treated at their job.

We have also been experiencing a significant amount of unaccompanied luggage being dropped off at the boat, and the luggage owners are electing to fly instead. If you are not a passenger on the boat, all luggage must be declared. In accordance with United States Coast Guard regulations and for the safety of our passengers, we are not permitted to transport any unclaimed luggage. This luggage could be left behind in Charlevoix or on the island. I have asked a few customers who are picking up this luggage in Charlevoix before the passengers are offloaded from the boat if they have a receipt for the luggage they are picking up. I have been met with hostility almost every time.

Commercial customers on Beaver Island pay for every single item we ship for them. They are invoiced for each item they receive from a vendor that we transport. It is impossible to invoice our non-commercial customers in the same way without creating long lines and delays in boarding and retrieving your luggage.

The Beaver Island Boat Company asks that you review the luggage and freight policy, treat all staff with respect, and claim all excess baggage or freight.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ISLAND'S NEW FUNDRAISING PROFESSIONALS

By Elsie Burton

This year, three local Islanders had the opportunity to participate in a tuition-free Certificate in Fund Raising Management (CFRM) program offered by the Charlevoix Community Foundation in partnership with the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation. Out of 30 nonprofit professionals selected, three representatives came from our very own Beaver Island: Carol Burton, Lori Taylor-Blitz, and Seamus Norgaard.

The eight-month program included four valuable courses designed to strengthen participants' skills in the art and science of fundraising. This past weekend, Carol, Lori, and Seamus proudly received their certificates of completion—a milestone that reflects not only their dedication to professional growth but also their commitment to serving the Beaver Island community.

Their achievement is a source of pride for the Island and a powerful reminder of how education and collaboration can benefit small communities.

This opportunity was made possible through the support of the Herrick Foundation, in partnership with the Charlevoix Community Foundation and the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation.

Pictured: Carol Burton and Lori Taylor-Blitz posing with their newly earned CFRM course certificates.

Pictured: Lori Taylor-Blitz, Ashley Cousins, Megan DeHoog, and Carol Burton celebrating at Petoskey's Escape Room.

It's nearly giving season…

This holiday season, share the gift that keeps Beaver Island friends, family, and loved ones connected all year long—the Northern Islander.

For Islanders near and far, the Northern Islander is more than just a newspaper—it's a lifeline to home. From community events and local news to stories that celebrate our people, traditions, and natural beauty, each issue captures the spirit of Beaver Island.

Whether you're looking for the perfect gift for a friend, a neighbor, or a loved one who misses the island, a subscription to the Northern Islander delivers warmth, connection, and belonging right to their mailbox.

The gift that delivers home all year long;
Beaver Island is just a page away.

Annual Subscription Rates

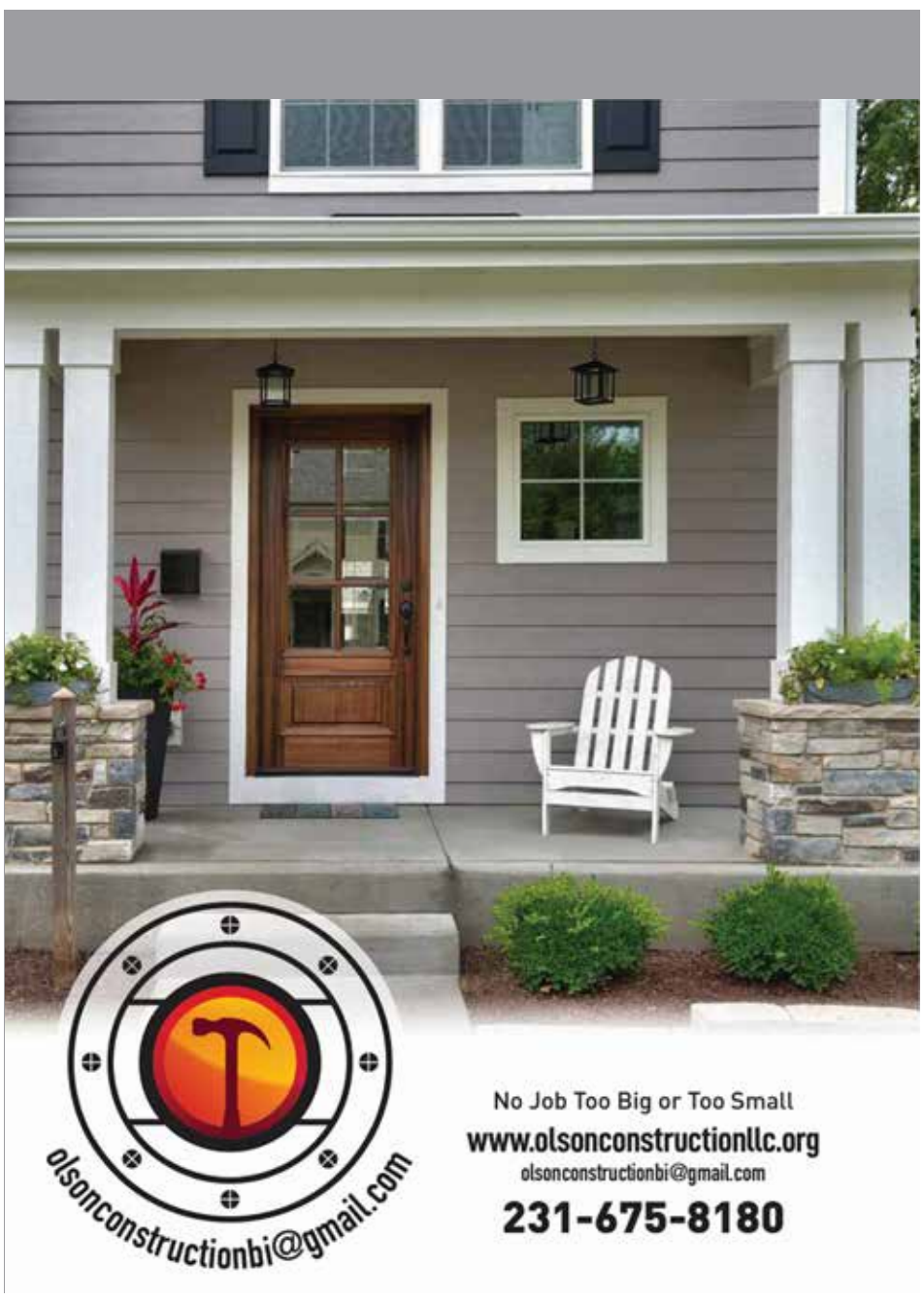
Print Only (In-State)	**$50.00**
Print Only (Out of State)	**$65.00**
Digital Only	**$48.00**
Print & Digital (In State)	**$62.00**
Print & Digital (Out of State)	**$77.00**

Bonus!

As a thank you for giving the gift of Northern Islander News this holiday season, every gifted subscription includes an optional 'happy holidays' feature on the Northern Islander website!

NORTHERN ISLANDER

To set up a gift subscription, visit or call the Beaver Island Historical Society at (231) 448-2254



THE AMIKOOMIS ANISHINAABEK CORNER

JIIBAY WIIKONGEWIN (GHOST SUPPERS) OF AMIKWAGANDA (BEAVER ISLAND)

By Melissa Wiatrolik

To keep their culture alive while being watched by European missionaries, the Odawa people combined some Christian traditions with their own Ghost Supper. Originally, Ghost Suppers took place in the spring, but they were moved to November to match the Catholic tradition of All Souls' Day on November 2, which is a time to pray for those who have passed away.

Before Europeans arrived, the Odawa held Ghost Suppers to honor their ancestors and would have these feasts at the cemetery. However, missionaries did not approve of this, so families started holding Ghost Suppers in their homes instead. Today, these gatherings can also happen in public places like halls, community centers, universities, and government buildings. Sometimes, as many as 100 to 200 people come together to share this meal, and everyone is welcome.

Each year, the Odawa Trails newsletter publishes a list of Ghost Suppers, but some families keep their events private and let others know by word of mouth. Usually, families pick the same day in November each year, like the first Friday or the second Saturday.

In October, before Ghost Suppers, Odawa people make small wreaths called "grave crowns" out of paper to place on ancestors' graves. These crowns are invitations for ancestors to join the feast, and people believe the wreaths become crowns when the ancestors accept.

People make special foods their ancestors used to love and leave some out for them during the meal. Ghost Suppers are also a time for the community to come together, visit, and build friendships.

Ghost Suppers, also known as Jiibay Wiikongewin, are a way for the Anishinaabe people to remember and honor their ancestors—parents, grandparents, relatives, and important community members like chiefs and spiritual leaders. The ceremony can be done in different ways depending on the family or community, but the main idea is to have good intentions and make an offering to the spirits.

Often, a Sacred Fire is lit so people can offer food and tobacco before anyone else eats. If there is no fire, offerings are placed in a safe spot outside. Drums and songs are sometimes included because the spirits enjoy their sound. Before eating, the area and food are usually smudged with sacred plants like cedar, sweetgrass, sage, or tobacco. Anyone can do the smudging, except women during their moon-time.

Some families set an empty chair and plate for the spirit, while others have someone eat for the spirit. When preparing the meal, people try to think good thoughts and cook the foods their loved ones enjoyed. Eating for the spirit is done respectfully, thinking of all the good things the ancestors brought to their lives and giving thanks for what they have now and in the future. These traditions may be different in each family, but the purpose is always to honor and remember those who came before. Many Anishinaabe families still hold these traditions on the Island and continue to honor the ancestors and the families within Beaver Island, Garden Island, and High Island.

2025 BEAVER ISLAND IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Pictured (left to right): Susan Boyle Heynig, accepting the award posthumously for Patrick (Paid Een Og) Boyle for Cultural Heritage; Lois Sowa Stipp, accepting her award for Public Service; Beverly O'Donnell Cantwell, accepting her award for Religion; and Robert Cole, for Cultural Heritage.

SPONSOR THE KIDS' CORNER

For just $25/month, you can help us support youth literacy.

Your sponsorship allows us to create a full page of fun and engaging content!

We create new and exciting activities each month. And, every child who completes the page can bring their completed copy into the Old Mormon Print Shop Museum on Beaver Island for a prize!

Email **editor@beaverislandhistory.org** for more information.

October is...
Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast cancer death rates in the United States have dropped by 44% since 1989.

Visit the National Breast Cancer Foundation, INC. website for free resources.

www.nationalbreastcancer.org

GREENWALD & B.C. INC.

GENERAL CONTRACTORS

HELPING YOU CREATE

THE HOME THAT YOU LOVE!

Your home plays a central role in your everyday life, when enjoying time with children, friends, or family; or simply relaxing on a beautiful day. Making changes or building a new home is easier when you partner with an expert that understands your vision and can turn it into reality. Whether a renovation or new building project, our team focuses on exceeding your expectations and turning your dreams into reality through honest communication and professional expertise.

Project Planning & Preparation

Roofing | Siding | Soffit & Fascia | Gutter Systems

Doors, Windows & Skylights | Rot Repair | Insulation

Kitchen & Bath Remodels | Interior Upgrades & Remodels

Demolition & Reconstruction

New Building Construction | Additions

Garages & Pole Barns | Decks & Stairways | Site Work | Masonry

Phone: 989-772-2202 | Web: www.GreenwaldBC.com

Preston Herren: Preston@GreenwaldBC.com

Maura Turner: Maura@GreenwaldBC.com

km

contractors

With over 30 years of experience, KM Contractors specializes in custom homes, commercial construction, dock installation & repairs, and steel & rock seawalls. Based on Beaver Island and serving all of Northern Michigan.

Ernest Martin • 231.499.0136 • kmcontractorsllc@gmail.com • kmcontractors.net

Charlevoix *Auto*

Driving for a better today.

High Standard of Customer Service

Concierge Service Appointments

Stress Free Car Buying

Together let's drive™

SALES

MONDAY- FRIDAY	8:30 AM - 5:30 PM
SATURDAY	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
SUNDAY	CLOSED

SERVICE AND PARTS

MONDAY- FRIDAY	7:30 AM - 5:30 PM
SATURDAY	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
SUNDAY	CLOSED

231-486-5795 | 06684 US-31 S CHARLEVOIX, MI 49720 | CHARLEVOIXAUTO.COM

THE STORIES BEHIND THE NAMES OF ISLANDERS LOST ON THE GREAT LAKES

THE MISSING CREW OF THE "LOOKOUT"

By Connie Wojan

The following article is a part of an ongoing series based on Islanders listed on the Great Lakes Memorial.

Last month's story about the disappearance and presumed drowning of Owen and John Gallagher and Tommy Boyle on October 23, 1873, left off with Dominick Gallagher's recollection of rumors of foul play, which circulated for years after the schooner Lookout ran aground with no one aboard.

In 1938, Ivan Walton, collector of Great Lakes songs and stories, took notes on Dominick Gallagher's memories of the aftermath of the incident:

"There was much talk about the Island at the time, and many were sure of foul play. The night before the boys left … they were all in the saloon drinking, and Tommy Boyle had a fistfight with the Gallaghers. The next morning they decided to be friends again. While on the mainland they had some words again and did some drinking. There are those who think they had a fight on the way back and the Gallagher brothers put him (Tommy Boyle) overboard and that only one (Tommy Boyle) was actually lost… For several years afterward, different people of the Island reported seeing the other Gallagher boy."

Dominick states in the interview that he may have run into one missing Gallagher himself when he boarded a Chicago schooner moored off Sand Bay to deliver some fish. After the schooner sailed on, Dominick remembered one of the crew had behaved suspiciously, keeping his head down, talking knowledgeably about the Island, and asking questions about Island families. When Dominick later described the man to his father, he said it "fit exactly the one Gallagher boy." (Dominick does not indicate which Gallagher brother he might have seen.)

Pictured is the headstone of Grace Boyle Gallagher, wife of John Gallagher who drowned in the "Lookout" accident.

As intriguing as Dominick's stories are, most would question, as I did, the accuracy of his memories. He was only six at the time of the Lookout grounding and related the story in 1938, sixty-five years later. Conspiracy theories then, as now, are often repeated regardless of the paucity of evidence. I could find no other verification of Dominick's or anyone else's sightings of the Gallagher brothers after the accident.

A kernel of suspicion grew in my mind, however, when I came across 1888 Escanaba marriage records showing the marriage of a John Gallagher (occupation: saloon keeper) to Mary Tolan. Could the John Gallagher referenced in these records be the same one who was presumed to have drowned in 1873? Keep in mind there were many large Gallagher families living on Beaver Island at the time. However, both the 1888 Escanaba marriage and the earlier Beaver Island census and church records show John's parents to be Shamus Gallagher and Mary Gillespie. John's age of 40 in the 1888 entry matches the age he would have been in that year according to Beaver Island records. The Escanaba entry indicates that John had been married once before. As noted in last month's installment, the John Gallagher who drowned had married Grace Boyle in 1872. (Helen Collar's online records note that Grace died in 1882 at the age of 28. Her crumbling headstone still stands askew in Holy Cross Cemetery.) Further, 1910 census records show a "Mary Tolan, widow of John," living with a daughter, Annie, age 23, in Escanaba. Finally, 1911 and 1913 Escanaba city directories list the address of Mary Tolan, "widow of John."

So, did the Gallagher brothers really shove the well-loved Tommy Boyle overboard on a blustery October night? A century and a half after the incident, that will forever remain an unsolved mystery.

Did John Gallagher, son of James (Shamus) and Mary Gillespie, survive the "accident" and move on to a new life in Escanaba? I believe the multiple correlations between 1860–1880 Beaver Island public records and 1888, 1910, 1911, and 1913 Escanaba archives suggest he did.

Questions my searches so far have failed to answer: How could 1880 U.S. census records showing John Gallagher, 32, and wife Grace, 25, residing in Peaine with four children born 1873–1880 be correct? What happened to John's daughter Mary, born 1873 (and possibly three other children) after Grace's death? If he did not drown in 1873, where did Owen end up? What happened to his wife and young baby? Is the "Annie," 23, listed as residing with "Mary Tolan, widow of John," in the 1910 Escanaba census John's daughter by his second wife? Did the poorly designed Lookout ever sail again?

I welcome readers' clues to the 152-year-old puzzle of what happened to the crew of the Lookout and the families they left behind.

177 TO THE HON. SECRETARY OF STATE OF MICHIGAN:

Return of Deaths in the County of Manistee

Record Number	Date of Death: Month	Day	Year	Full Name of the Deceased	Male or Female	White, Black, Mulatto, Etc.	Married, Single, Widow, or Widower	Age: Years	Months	Days	Place of Death
6	November	11	1873	Bridile Donohoe	female	white		10			Town of Galilee
7	October	7	1873	Anna McDonogher	female	white		1	6		Town of Galilee
8	December	3	1873	Patrick Donohoe	Male	white	Married	43			Town of Galilee
9	October	23	1873	Thomas Boyle	Male	white	Single	23			Lake Michigan
10	October	23	1873	John Gallagher	Male	white	Married	29			Lake Michigan
11	October	23	1873	Owen Gallagher	Male	white	Married	23			Lake Michigan
12	June	24	1874	Bridget Gallagher	female	white	Married	24			Town of Peaine

Pictured is the death record for John Gallagher, visible in row ten, third line up from the bottom and indicated by the red frame.

NINE Design & Homes

Serving Beaver Island and Northern Michigan

Design
Construction
Renovation

Call or Text Keith

720.544.1511

Info@Nine.homes

ninedesignandhomes
keithbynum_

NEWS FROM THE BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

Into the month of October we go, with some autumn colors still clinging to the trees and island roads becoming quieter. Your Community Center will be bringing fall and Halloween-themed events to the table, so read on below for the highlights—and check out our website at *biccenter.org* for weekly updates, special event tickets, and Beaver Island Community Center and other local programs on the Community Calendar there.

Saturday movies are back in full swing, with double features for kids and grown-ups. October 4 has PG action-comedy *A Minecraft Movie* based on the popular video game, followed by the R-rated drama The Road, based on the Cormac McCarthy novel following an ailing father who defends his son as they slowly travel to the sea in a post-apocalyptic world; part of the Beaver Island District Library's Big Read series. October 11 is the second day of the Harvest on the Harbor festival, showcasing Caffeine Patrol, the genre-blending band bringing country charm and big band polish to the stage. Led by the smooth-yet-snappy interplay of Anthony Castagna and Eddie Slide, their sound is a rich blend of western swing, hillbilly jazz, and a dash of crooner cool (You may recognize Anthony & Eddie from their time playing with Zachariah Malachi in the past few years on the Island).

October 18's movies feature the classic fantasy-drama *Edward Scissorhands*, starring Johnny Depp as an artificial man who was incompletely constructed and has scissors for hands, whose life is upended when he is taken in by a suburban family. The Michael B. Jordan-directed supernatural thriller Sinners is up after that, a stylish tale of two brothers trying to leave their troubled lives behind who return to their hometown to start again—only to discover that an even greater evil is waiting to welcome them back.

On October 25 at 5:00 p.m. we've got a special treat for animated film lovers: *Ghibli Feast*. Join us for a sushi-making workshop where Chef Vicky Fingeroot will teach us how to hand-roll the traditional California roll as well as a Veggie Roll. You can enjoy your newly made rolls along with some ice cream mochi while we screen the iconic film *Spirited Away*, created by legendary Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki of famed Studio Ghibli. The film follows a young girl named Chihiro who, after her parents are transformed into animals, must work in a bathhouse for spirits to find a way to save them and return to the human world. The critically acclaimed film features a dazzling world of spiritual beings, imaginative creatures, and stunningly beautiful landscapes. Whether you're a foodie, a film lover, or just a fan of all things Ghibli, this magical night promises unforgettable flavors and cinematic wonder.

See you at the Community Center!

BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER ARTWORK TO BE DISPLAYED AT BEAVER ISLAND SCHOOL

TED PRAWAT MURAL RECEPTION CELEBRATES ISLAND HERITAGE

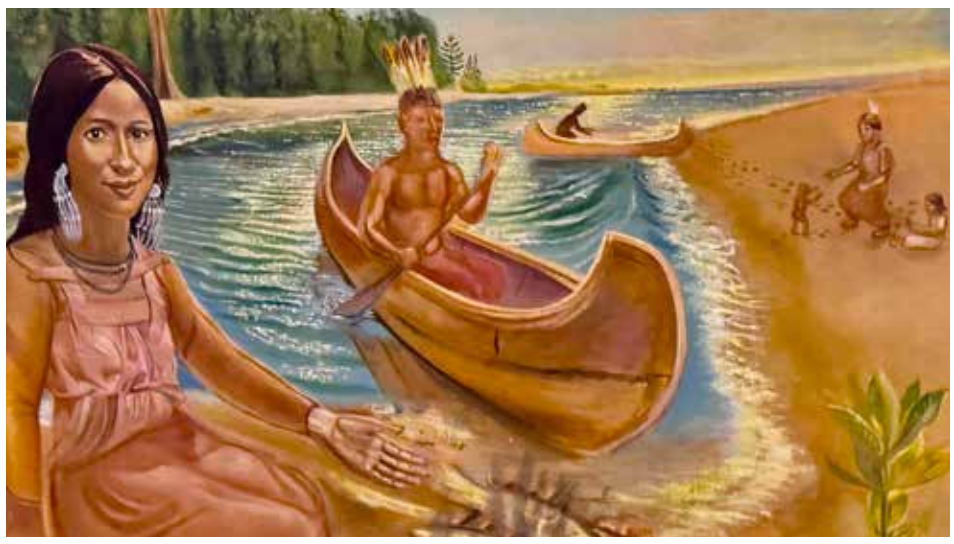
By Lois Stipp

The Beaver Island Community Center recently hosted a heartfelt reception honoring artist and educator Ted Prawat and his large-scale mural, a vibrant tribute to the island's rich culture and history. The mural on canvas, which reflects the layered stories of Indigenous presence, maritime legacy, and enduring community spirit, is on loan to the Beaver Island Community School, offering students and visitors a daily encounter with the island's heritage.

Ted Prawat, a professional artist with deep Michigan roots, brings decades of experience in both studio practice and arts education. He holds a BFA in Painting and a degree in Art Education from Miami University in Ohio, and he earned his MFA in Painting from Indiana University, known for its rigorous, studio-based program. His teaching career includes appointments at Interlochen Center for the Arts, Thomas College (where he directed the Center for Innovation in Education), and George Mason University, where he served as an Assistant Professor of Game Design and Visual Theory.
Mr. Prawat's courses blend classical technique with narrative craft and emerging technologies. His artwork has been featured in solo exhibitions at the 3e International School in Beijing, China (2005–2009), and in a major retrospective in Williamston, Michigan (2014).

The mural, created specifically for Beaver Island, is a visual journey through time and place. Its imagery invites reflection on the island's natural rhythms and cultural resilience. Community members attending the reception expressed appreciation for the mural's depth and beauty, and their excitement for its new role at the school.

"This is more than a painting—it's a living story," said one attendee. "It belongs with the students, where it can inspire curiosity and pride in our shared history."



The mural's placement at the Beaver Island Community School marks a meaningful collaboration between the Community Center and the school, reinforcing the island's commitment to arts education and cultural preservation. As students pass by its vivid panels each day, they'll be reminded of the stories that shape their community, and the creative voices that help tell their history.

BIC Center
BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

BEAVER ISLAND

REMEMBERING BRYAN FOLI

Submitted by Becca Foli

A man of perseverance, Bryan Foli, 62, passed away on September 3, 2025, at his home after a long and courageous battle with oral and lung cancer. He suffered through surgeries, radiation, chemotherapy, and immunotherapy. Sadly, treatment failed after two years. Bryan taught us that life is meant to be gratefully and passionately lived, despite the circumstances.

He was born in Panama City, Florida, on April 2, 1963, and found his home on Beaver Island, Michigan. Bryan graduated from Kaiser High School in Honolulu, HI, in 1981. He held two bachelor's degrees: French and Chemistry from the University of Illinois. He also had two master's degrees: School Administration and Natural Sciences. He was three years into an Educational Doctorate when he moved from Champaign, IL, in 2016 to Beaver Island, MI, to teach high school Chemistry, Physics, and French.

Bryan is survived by his loving wife, Becca; his three children, Connor (Hannah) Foli, Isaac Foli, and Eliza Foli; and his cherished grandchildren, Eleanor, Caroline, and Amelia Foli. He also leaves behind his mother- and father-in-law, Sharon Henry-Warren and David Bowman; his sister-in-law, Lindsey Bowman, and nephew, Liam Bowman; and several beloved aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, William Lee and Sandra Kay Foli.

Bryan's life was directed by his love for God. In his youthful zeal, he majored in French because he wanted to be a missionary to Africa. Before beginning his teaching career, Bryan was a campus minister for seven years at the University of Illinois. This is where he met Becca, and after starting a family, he began teaching high school.

Bryan had a passion for life and learning. He was a thoughtful man who enjoyed deep conversations about anything spiritual, financial, historical, or educational. A renaissance man, he could amaze you with his wealth of knowledge and interests in so many different subjects. You could always count on winning if he was on your trivia team. His interest and passion for craft beer led him to become a founding member of Whiskey Point Brewing Co. He really enjoyed his summers behind the bar greeting and talking with all those who visited. A quick wit and great sense of humor made him a fun bartender and easy to work with.

Besides a passion for teaching, Bryan loved being outdoors. He walked or biked to work every day for 15 years, in all kinds of weather! The summers were spent biking, paddleboarding, and kayaking. Family vacations were always to Lake Michigan. Even though he was extremely weak from treatments, he looked forward to daily walks on the gravel roads of his wooded neighborhood.

Thankfully, with the care of hospice, Bryan was able to spend the last of his life at his home with his wife and children on Beaver Island. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. He is buried at Holy Cross Cemetery, Beaver Island, Michigan.

Funeral services were held on September 13, 2025, at Holy Cross Church.

Out of his love for the Beaver Island Community, donations can be made to the Beaver Island Food Pantry, PO Box 21, Beaver Island, MI 49782.

Now *Caring* on Beaver Island!

Islanders Serving Islanders.

We're excited and proud to begin serving the island with compassionate home care and in-home assisted living.

Beaver Island residents, Lonnie, Briana, and Frankie have received their health aide certifications and are looking forward to serving our island community.

- Personal Care
- Companionship
- Housekeeping
- Errands & Transportation
- Delicious Meals
- Alzheimer's & Dementia Care
- Medication Oversight
- Private Duty Nursing

Comfort Keepers®

In-home Care for Seniors

866-929-9044

ComfortKeepersTC.com

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SYNOPSIS - August 27, 2025

Submitted by Kim Garver

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix County Commissioners room on August 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Five Commissioners were present. Excused: Commissioner Christensen.

Motion approved the agenda, as amended.

Motion approved the consent agenda, as presented.

Public Hearing on the Michigan Community Development Block Grant Funding for CDBG Program Income Emergency Repair opened for comments from the floor at 6:05 p.m. With no further comments the public hearing closed at 6:05 p.m.

Motion approved Resolution #25-103, Grandvue Operating Transfer.

Motion approved the appointment of Commissioner Chamberlain as MERS Officer for the 2025 MERS Annual Conference.

Motion approved to direct the County Administrator to contact a third-party entity to conduct a building space and use analysis for the Shirley Roloff Center, downtown building, and health department.

Motion approved the appointment of Kassie Kennaugh to the Charlevoix County Parks Advisory Committee.

Motion approved the resignation of Henry Erber from the Charlevoix County Veterans Affairs Committee.

Motion approved to authorize the Planning Director to pursue a professional services agreement with Beckett and Raeder.

Motion tabled indefinitely Resolution #25-104, Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners Upper Chain of Lakes – Lake Levels.

Motion approved Resolution #25-105, Community Development Block Grant Program Agreement.

Motion approved Resolution #25-106, 2025/2026 P.A. 416 Grant Application.

Motion approved Resolution #25-107, Physician Services for Inmate Health Care Renewal.

Motion failed Resolution #25-108, Phases 4 & 5 Boyne City to Charlevoix Non-Motorized Bike Trail Engineering Services Contract. 2.3 Nays: Commissioner Kenney, Commissioner Chamberlain, and Commissioner Hankins.

Motion approved Resolution #25-109, Public Hearing Notice.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 7:36 p.m. Complete copies of the Board minutes can be found on the County website, www.charlevoixcounty.org.

Julia A. Drost, County Clerk

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SYNOPSIS - September 10, 2025

Submitted by Kim Garver

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix County Commissioners room on September 10, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Six Commissioners were present.

Motion approved the agenda, as presented.

Motion approved the consent agenda, as presented.

Public Hearing on the 2025/2026 General fund budget opened for comments from the floor at 9:34 a.m. With no further comments the public hearing closed at 9:49 a.m.

Motion approved Resolution #25-110, Approve County Expenditures.

Motion approved to reconsider Court Offices Security Glass. 4.2 Nays – Commissioner Hankins and Commissioner Christensen.

Motion approved the appointment of Asuka Barden to the Charlevoix County Canvass Board. 5.1 Nays – Commissioner Jess.

Motion approved the appointment of Gordon Bloem to the Charlevoix County Canvass Board.

Motion to approve appointment of Randi Hunter to the Charlevoix County Veterans Affairs Committee. No Action.

Motion approved the appointment of William Cousineau to the Charlevoix County Veterans Affairs Board.

Motion approved Resolution #25-111, Maximum Authorized Millage Rates.

Motion approved Resolution #25-112, 2025 General Fund Budget. 5.1 Nays – Commissioner Chamberlain.

Motion approved Resolution #25-113, Cigarette Tax Distribution.

Motion approved Resolution #25-114, Convention Facility Tax Distribution.

Motion approved Resolution #25-115, 2026 Subsidiary Fund Budgets.

Motion approved Resolution #25-116, 2026 Salary Schedule.

Motion approved Resolution #25-117, Accept Donation of Money or Property to Charlevoix County.

Motion approved Resolution #25-118, Court Offices Security Glass, as amended to award Charlevoix Glass in the amount of $42,598.40. 4.2 Nays – Commissioner Christensen and Commissioner Hankins.

Motion approved Resolution #25-119, I.T. Vshpere Licensing Purchase. Motion approved Resolution #25-120, Aruba Port Switches Purchase.

Motion approved Resolution #25-121, Charlevoix County Shirley Roloff Center Automatic Door Openers.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 11:05 a.m. Complete copies of the Board minutes can be found on the County website, www.charlevoixcounty.org.

Julia A. Drost, County Clerk

BEAVER ISLAND FURBABIES BOOK

YOUR FAVORITE FURRY FRIENDS ARE COMING BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER

ALL OF YOUR FAVORITE BEAVER ISLAND FURBABY STORIES ARE BEING BROUGHT TO YOU IN A SPECIALLY CURATED BOOK!

GET READY FOR ENDLESS FURRY FUN FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE NORTHERN ISLANDER FOR MORE INFORMATION.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTINUE SUBMITTING STORIES ABOUT YOUR ISLAND PETS!

You Call, We HAUL

GENERAL, FREIGHT, CARGO, HEAVY EQUIPMENT, TOPSOIL, BOATS, MORE

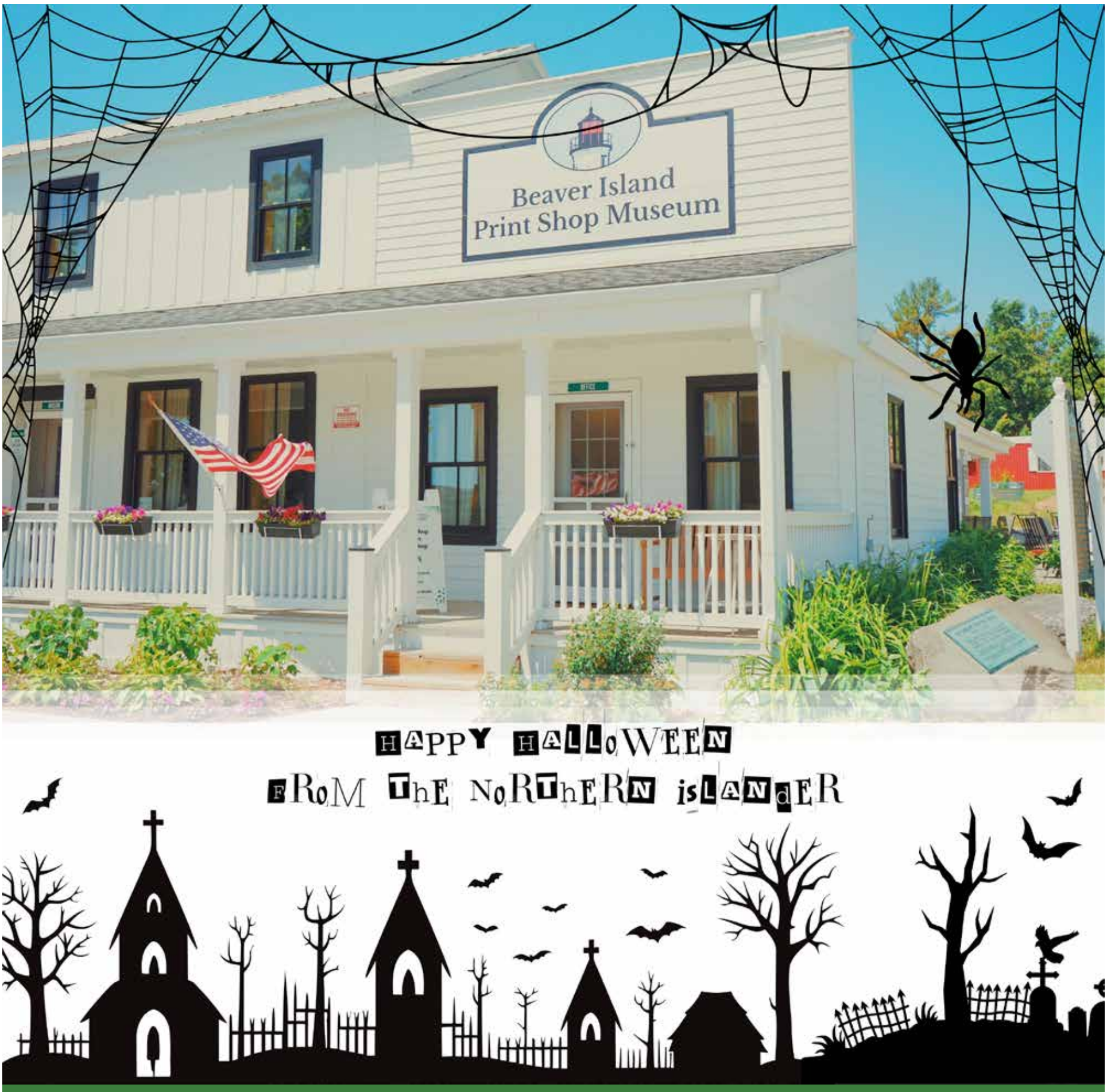
SERVING BEAVER ISLAND & THE GREAT LAKES

foggmarineenterprises@gmail.com

231.448.4000 | STJAMESMARINE.COM

FOGG MARINE ENTERPRISES

DOCKS
TOWING
DREDGING
BOAT REPAIR
LOGGING
SALVAGE
EXCAVATING
CONTAINER SHIPPING
SEAWALLS
ON WATER FIREWORKS



Please Join our Northern Islander Family!

We are committed to creating our publication with an authentic vision and enthusiastic leadership team dedicated to producing relevant storytelling experiences for the community, by the community. As a nonprofit organization, we can only succeed and thrive with your support.

Subscribe NOW and stay connected to Beaver Island whenever and wherever you are!

To subscribe, mail in the form provided below, or visit beaverislandhistory.org/northern-islander

I'd love an annual subscription to the *Northern Islander*!

Subscription Options:

___ Regular (In-State) $50 ___ Out of State $65

___ Digital Only $48 ___ Digital & Print (In-State) $62

___ Digital & Print (Out of State) $77

Mail to:

Northern Islander
PO Box 295
Beaver Island, MI 49782

Name: _____

Address: _____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip: _____

Email:_____

Phone Number: _____

Payment Options: To pay by card, please visit *northernislander.news*

___ Cash

___ Check: Make payable to Northern Islander